

CHINA TOURISM

FOUR THEMES IN GUANGDONG

TALES OF TIBETAN ANTELOPE
FAREWELL TO THREE GORGES

268

ISSN 1025-577X



9 771025 577006



龍鳳呈祥 雙喜臨門



上海“红双喜”
Shanghai “Double Happiness”

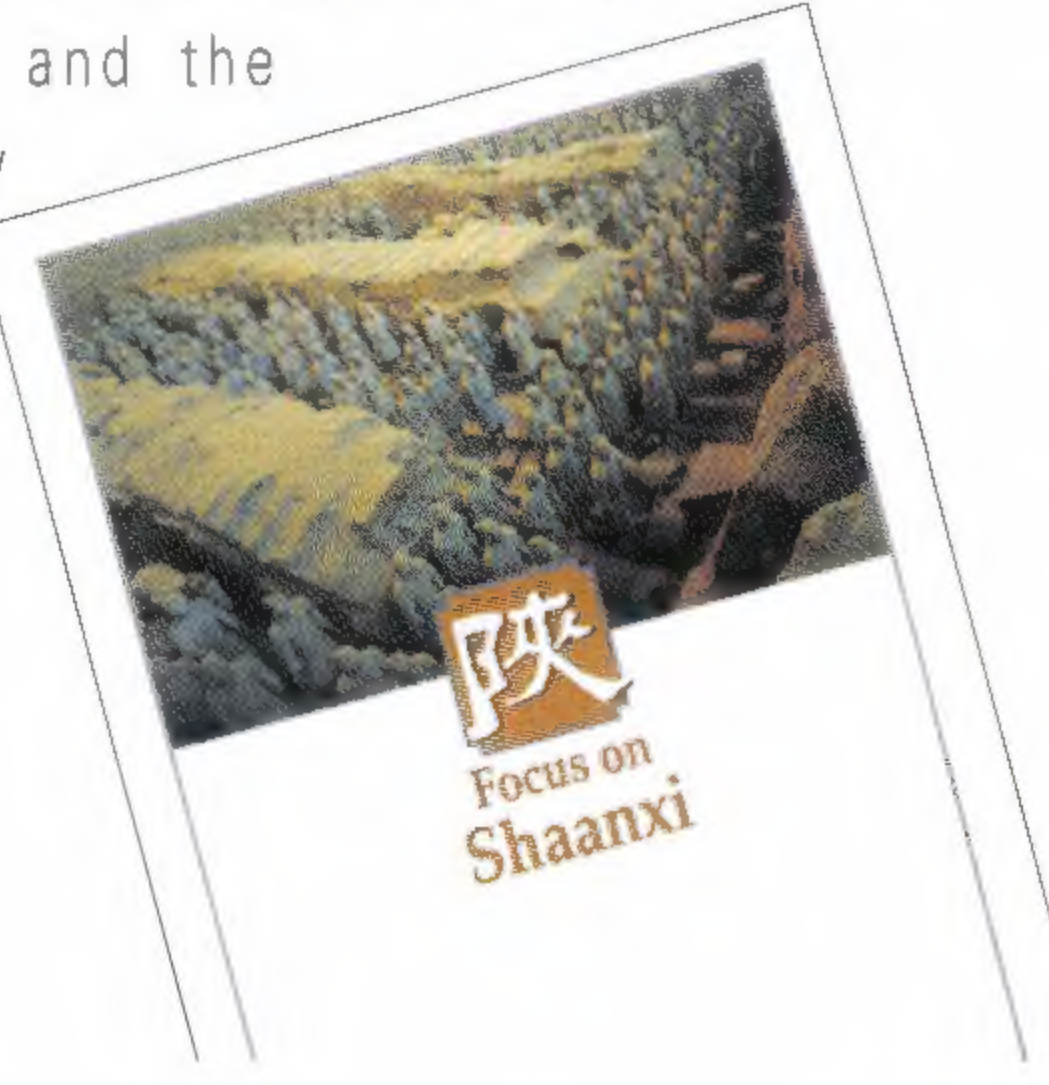
FOCUS ON XINJIANG

On the vast land of Xinjiang in Northwest China, there are mountains, basins, deserts and lakes, all providing tourists with numerous attractions — ruins of ancient cities and tombs along the Silk Road; Turpan, an oasis in the desert; Kanas Lake, a gem embedded in the Altay Mountains; Bayanbulak, the Swan Lake; and the world's second largest desert, the Taklimakan. The minority ethnic groups living in Xinjiang, such as the Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Uzbek, Tajik, Xibei, Kirgiz and Tatar, all have their own unique and colourful culture.



FOCUS ON SHAANXI

Shaanxi is the cradle of the Chinese civilisation and Xi'an was the capital of 13 dynasties. This has left Shaanxi a rich legacy of historical sites and cultural relics. In the provincial capital Xi'an, there is the fascinating terracotta army unearthed from the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang; the tomb of Tang-dynasty Wu Zetian, China's first empress; and the stele forest. The province's beauty is capped with the sheer cliffs of Mount Huashan and the yellow earth of the Loess Plateau.



FOCUS ON YUNNAN

The mountainous wonderland of Yunnan enjoys a favourable warm climate all year round. Its capital, Kunming, sitting alongside Yunnan's largest lake, Dianchi, has the honourable name of "Spring City". The province is full of natural wonders and cultural relics, such as the Stone Forests, the Shangri-la, and the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. With over 20 diverse ethnic groups making up about one-third of the population, opportunities abound for you to see their characteristic cultures and customs.



The Call of China's West

FOCUS ON TIBET The Tibet Autonomous Region of China is a land of mystery for tourists, a land of wonders for explorers, a land of purity for Buddhists, and the ultimate challenge for mountaineers. Its beautiful landscapes, unique geographical features and rich cultural legacy continue to attract an increasing number of visitors.

The countless attractions of Tibet make it impossible to include them all in one book. This photographic publication offers an introduction to some of the Region's most celebrated features: the Potala Palace and its precious collection of cultural relics; the Jokhang Temple with strings of worshippers prostrating themselves before it; the Shoton Festival and the Sunning of Buddha ceremony; the ruins of the mystical Guge Kingdom; and the amazing Qiangtang Grassland....

At the same time, *Focus on Tibet* outlines the six major routes to Tibet and the many stunning landscapes found along the way.



Paperback Only

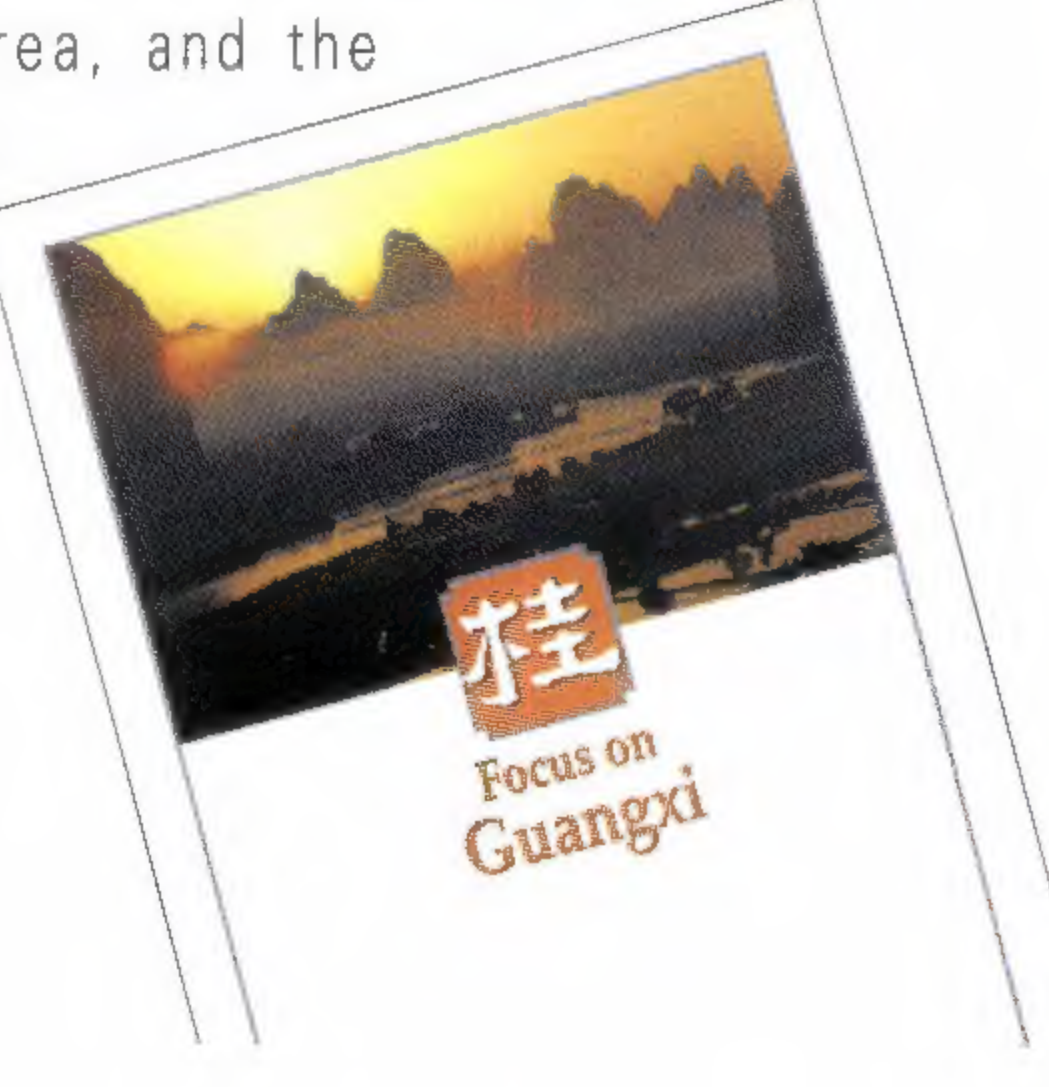
FOCUS ON GUIZHOU

Guizhou is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huangguoshu Waterfalls and the limestone caves are the province's most frequented scenic spots. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its natural beauty and culture that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination.



FOCUS ON GUANGXI

Unusual topography has endowed the province with numerous spectacular karst formations — limestone caves, pinnacles and rocks. The most famous and enchanting scenic spot is Guilin, and the most travelled route, on the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo. The coastal city of Beihai has the country's largest beach, the Silver Beach. Other attractions include the diverse traditional customs of ethnic minorities, the Sino-Vietnamese border area, and the mysterious Huashan cliff paintings.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	PRICE (surface postage included)			
	Local	Copy	Overseas	Copy
Focus On Tibet	HK\$84		HK\$96 / US\$12	
Focus On Xinjiang	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Shaanxi	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Yunnan	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Guizhou	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Guangxi	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Total				

* For registered mail, add HK\$13 / US\$1.7.
** All of the above are hardbacks, except "Focus on Tibet".

Subscriber's Information

Name: _____
Subscription No. (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
Daytime Tel.: _____
E-mail: _____
Payment:
Credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE
Credit card no.: _____
Expiry date: _____
Cardholder's signature: _____

Please mail your order form to:
Hong Kong China Tourism Press
24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road,
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong; or fax to: (852) 2561 8196.
For more information, please call (852) 2561 8001 or
e-mail to mktg@hkctp.com.hk.

CHINA

TOURISM

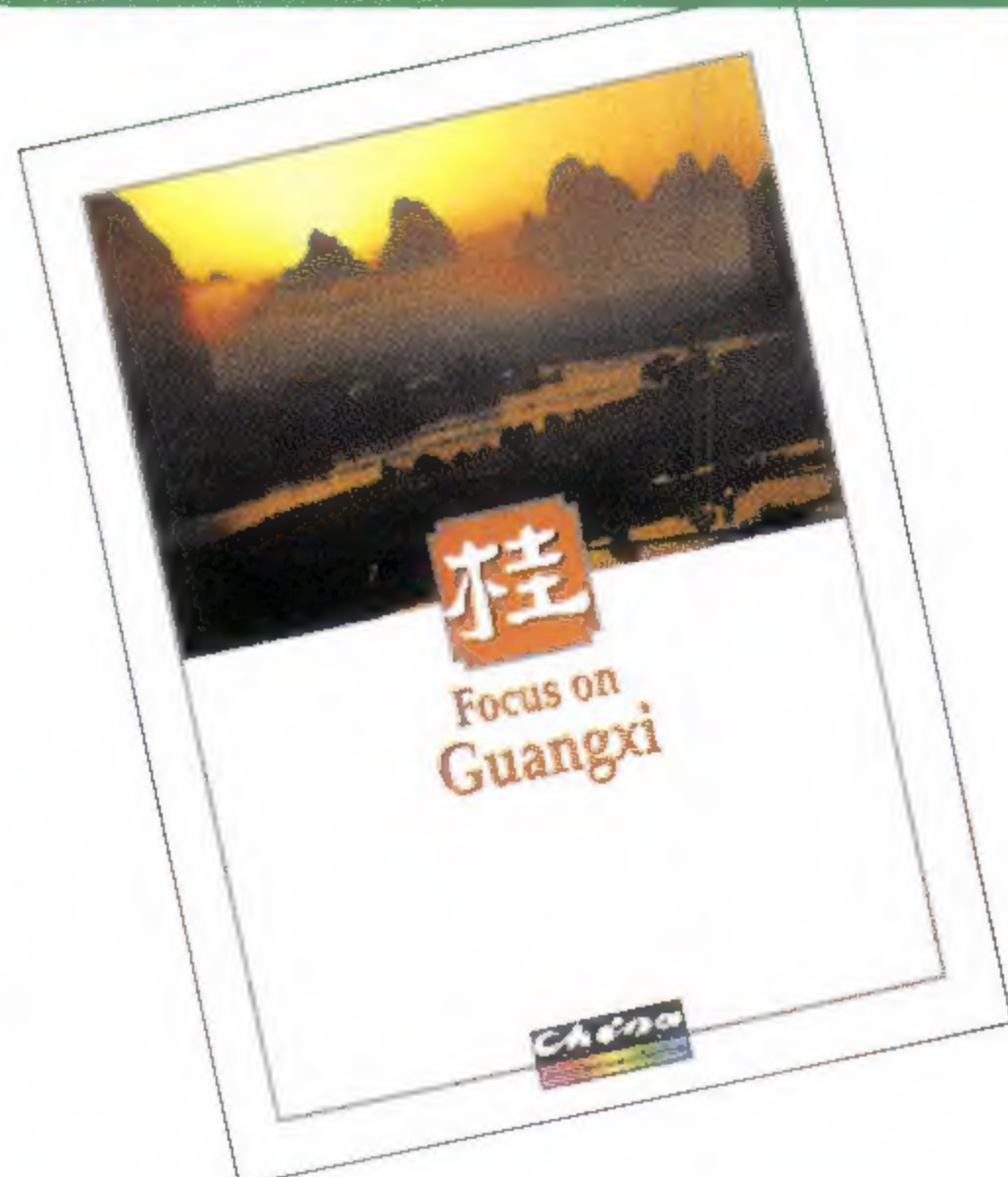
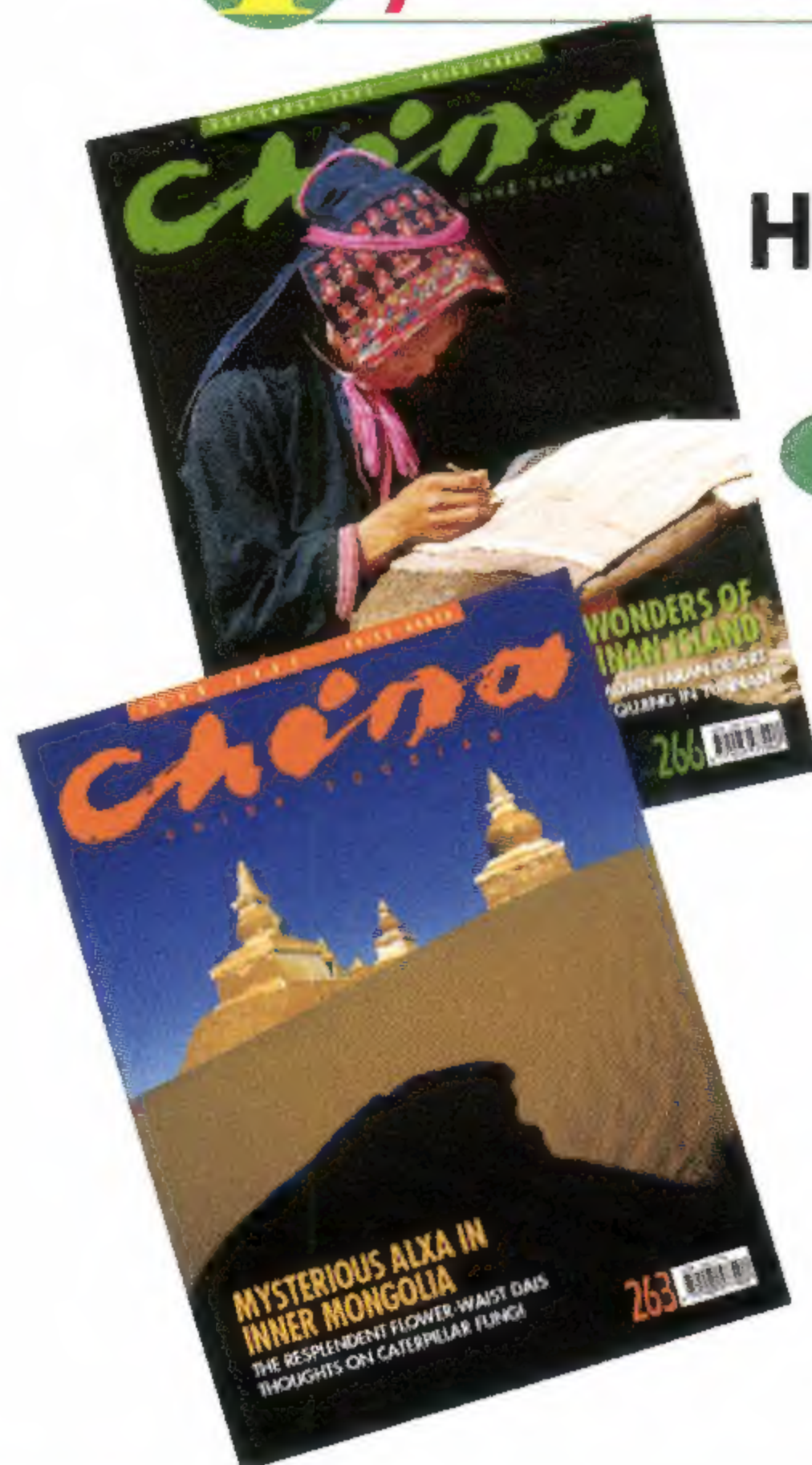
English Edition

SAVE OFF THE NEWSSTAND PRICE

1 year subscription (12 issues)

HK \$**359** / US \$**46**

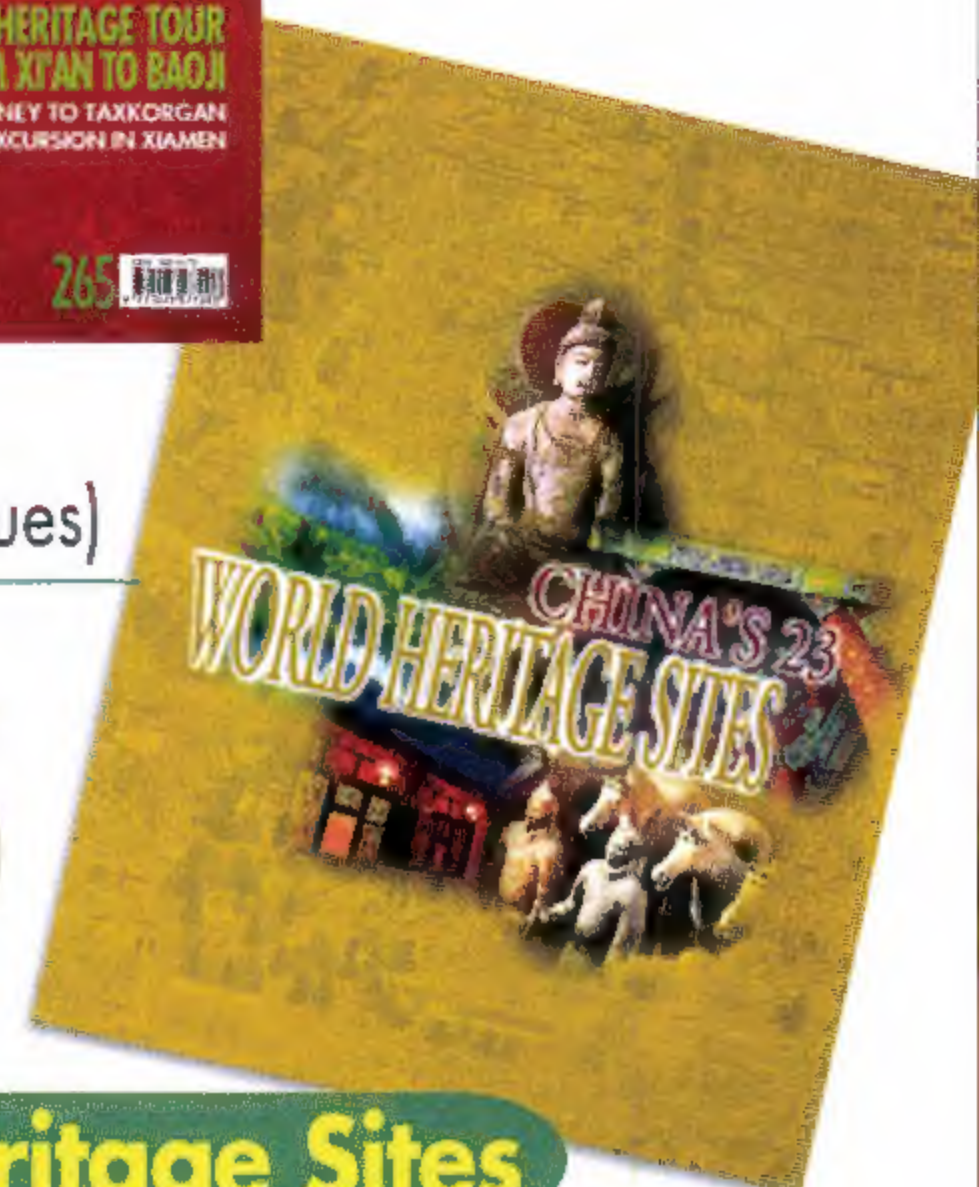
Gift: Focus on Guangxi



2 years subscription (24 issues)

HK \$**660** / US \$**85**

Gift: China's 23 World Heritage Sites



Overseas Subscription Rates

Region	Surface Mail		Air Mail	
	1 year	2 years	1 year	2 years
PRC, Macao and Taiwan	HK\$451/US\$58	HK\$850/US\$109	HK\$690/US\$89	HK\$1328/US\$171
Asian countries (except Japan)	US\$69	US\$130	US\$89	US\$171
Japan and non-Asian countries	US\$70	US\$133	US\$102	US\$197

☐ Additional charge for Registered Mail HK\$156/US\$20 per year.

☐ Additional charge for US cheque US \$7

I would like to subscribe to CHINA TOURISM starting from _____/20____ for
(Month)

☐ 1 year, please send me *Focus on Guangxi*

☐ 2 years, please send me *China's 23 World Heritage Sites*

Subscriber's Information

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____ Tel: _____

Fax/E-mail: _____ Country: _____

Address: _____

Method of Payment

Total payment: HK\$ _____/US\$ _____

☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to "HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS"

☐ Please debit my credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

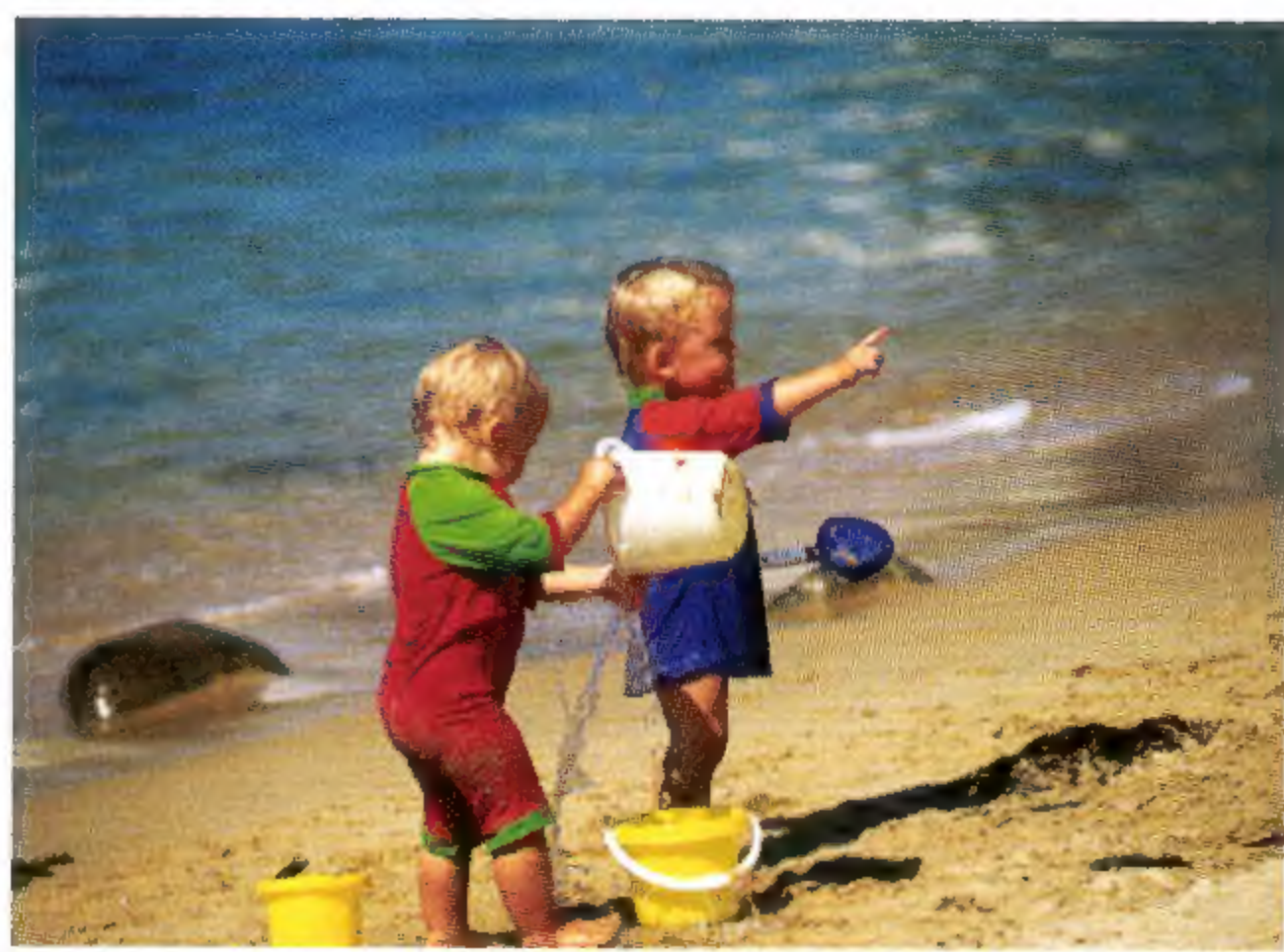
Card no.: _____ Expiry date: _____

Signature: _____

Please return to : HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS (Circulation Department), 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8196

CONTENTS

No. 268 November 2002



Cover: New look of Zhuji Lane in Nanxiong City, Guangdong (by Chen Xun)



From the Editor

7 Choices Galore in Guangdong

8 Update

10 Travel Notes

Impressions

12 Mêdog — an Unforgettable Place

Article by Shui Xiaojie

Travel Journal

13 The Search for Shangri-La

Article by Winnie So

Feature Story

14 Four Different Themes in Guangdong

Photos by Chan Yat Nin, Shi Baoxiu, Xiu Guanghui, and others

Article by Jackie, Xiao Ji, Hailan

Guangdong Province has risen to the front rank of China's economic powerhouses in recent years. But what else does it offer besides money and opportunity? We invite you to explore this South China land in four themes: landscape and custom tours,

beach holiday tours, heritage and nature tours, as well as hot spring tours. Despite the buzzing Guangzhou capital city, there are many places in suburb Guangdong which boast affluent historical reminders and colourful natural or cultural scenery.

Nature

44 Tales of the Tibetan Antelope

Photos & article by Liu Yujun Edited by Dianna Lau

As the author says, we human beings should understand that we are not the only inhabitants on earth. It should be remembered that the greed of man has already pushed many rare animals to the road of extinction. The Tibetan antelope is one of these examples. Fortunately, there are still people who do not attempt in killing the animal to make precious clothes but have spent years and even sacrificed lives in preserving the species as well as disclosing their mysterious life circle to the world.

Photography

52 Tracing Sichuan's Autumn Scenery

Photos & article by Li Zhicheng



TOP SERVICE
TO BUSINESS TRAVELLERS
AND TOURISTS ALIKE

Services include:

- * Worldwide hotel reservations
- * International flight bookings
- * Hotel packages
- * Organised tours of China, Asia, the United States, Canada and Europe
- * Cruises and holiday packages
- * Car rental service
- * Launch rental service
- * Eurail pass
- * Visa service

Service Hotline: **2516 9228** (Bonnie Lik) Fax: **2563 7994** E-mail: **travel@hkctp.com.hk**



ADVERTISEMENT ENQUIRIES

I am interested in advertising with **CHINA TOURISM** (Please complete in block letters):

Advertiser's Name

Product(s)

Issue No. / Page No.

Special Requests: ☐ Quotation ☐ Sample ☐ Others (please specify)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms):

Position:

Company Name:

Company Address:

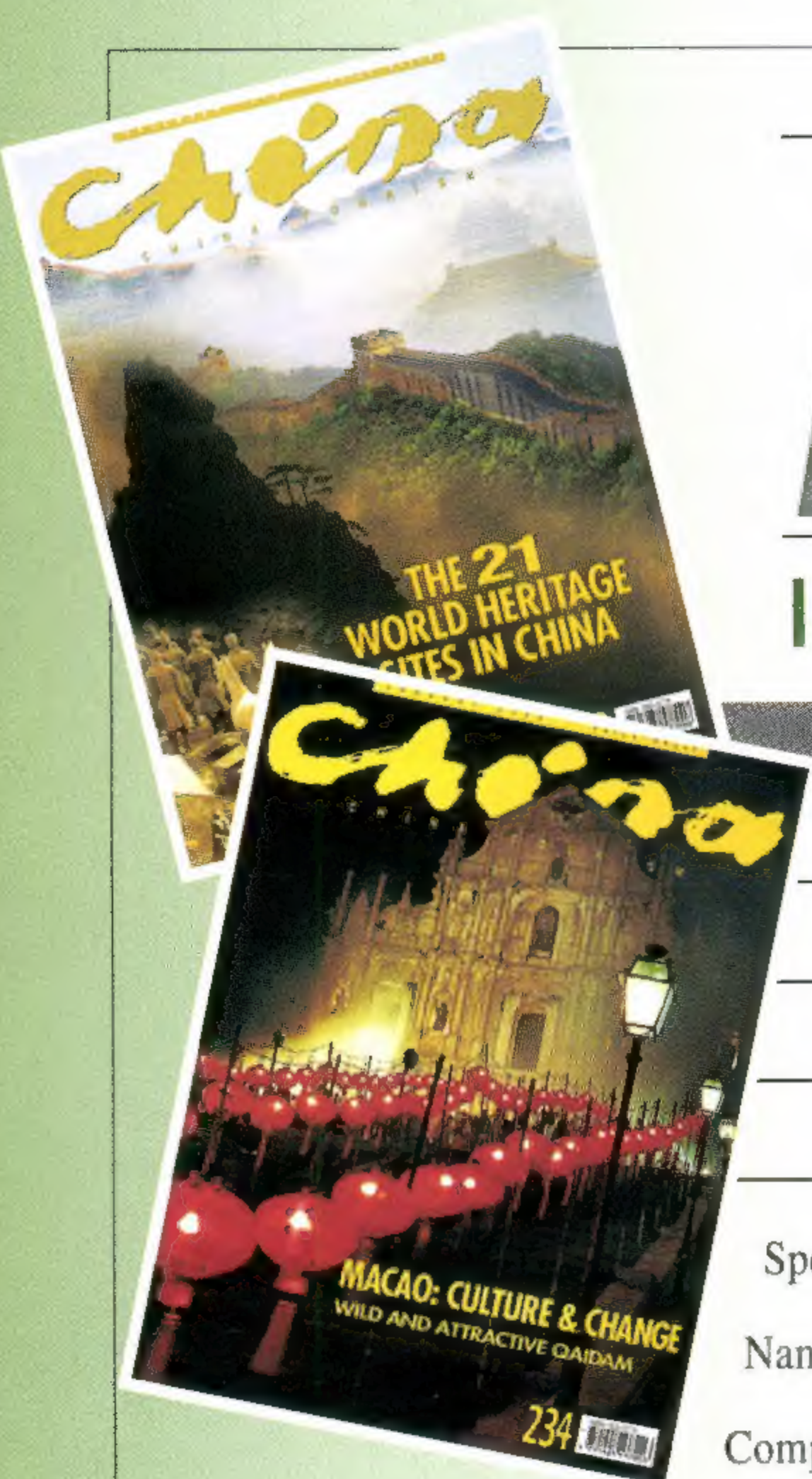
Major Type of Business (please specify):

(tick one): ☐ Import ☐ Export ☐ Wholesale ☐ Retail ☐ Agent ☐ Manufacturing

Signature:

Business Tel:

Fax:



CONTENTS

No. 268 November 2002



Landscapes

58 Bidding Farewell to the Three Gorges

Photos & article by Huang Yanhong

Before the start of the second phase of the Three Gorges Project, our reporter seizes the opportunity to appreciate the soul-stirring landscapes of the Three Gorges by taking the Victoria Cruise. Though he finds foreigners outnumber local visitors on the boat, he enjoys the service and being with these interesting western tourists while appreciating the scenery.

Traveller's Corner

64 The Men in Yellow

Photos & article by Mehdi Chebil Link

HK Mosaic

66 Take a Walk on Lamma Island

Photos & article by Suolang Zhaxi

Excursions

70 The Ancient Town of Huangyao

Photos & article by Li Yuxiang

Customs

74 The Sangemao — Special Tibetans

Photos & article by Wu Pingguan

On the Way

78 Peitian — a Strange Land

Photos & article by Wang Min

The discovery of an attractive place always happens by coincidence. Like the writer of this article, he finds the Peitian ancient Hakka community with his friend one day when they previously plan to sightsee the earthen buildings of Yongding, also in Fujian Province. At last, they are surprised to have found such an ideal destination, where ancient buildings are well protected and people are simple. Compared to those touristy places, they have an even impressive day in Peitian.

82 Experiences

84 Next Issue

85 Calendar

86 Executive's Memo



Consultants (In alphabetical order)

Director

Vice Director & Editor-in-Chief

General Manager

Deputy General Managers

Executive Editor-in-Chief

Deputy Editors-in-Chief

Director of Editorial Department

Deputy Directors of Editorial Department

Editors of English Editorial Department

Director of Art Department

Designers

Assistant Designer

China Account Managers

Manager of Sales & Marketing Department

Business Development Manager

Director of Accounts & Administration Dept.

T. K. Ann, Ian Fok Chun Wan, Lam Chun,
Ma Chi Man, Ma Lin, Wong Tak Hoi,
James T. Wu, Howard Young

Tchan Fou-li

Wang Miao

Liu Yang

Kathy Wong, James Jiang, Connie Lee

Ma Yiu Chun

Tu Nai Hsien, Chan Yat Nin

Dianna Lau

Xie Guanghui, Huang Yanhong

Zuo Jun, Kristy Wong

Norris Tong

Y. Y. Lau, W. Y. Yuen, M. Y. Li, S. Y. Leung

Lily Lam

Yu Xifan, Kung Man Kei, Tung Wai Ning

Connie Lee (concurrent)

James Jiang (concurrent)

Kathy Wong (concurrent)

Publisher: HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS

24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8057-2561 8196

Editorial Dept., Business Dept., Advertising Dept., Sales Dept. Tel: (852) 2561 8001

China Tourism Photo Library Tel: (852) 2561 8001

E-mails: English Editorial Dept: edite@hkctp.com.hk

Advertising Dept: ad@hkctp.com.hk

Sales & Marketing Dept: mktg@hkctp.com.hk

Photo Library: plchina@netvigator.com

Hong Kong China Tourism Ltd. (Licence No. 351850) Tel: (852) 2516 9228

Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.

C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road, Tai Po, N.T. Tel: (852) 2666 4988

Agencies: **Australia** Gordon and Gotch Ltd. •

Belgium Sun Wah Supermarket • **Brazil** Comercio

Importadora Konmin Ltd. • **Canada** Sun Wa Bookstore,

Toronto; Van China Trade Centre Ltd., Vancouver •

China National Publications Import & Export Corp.,

Beijing • **England** Guanghua Company Ltd., London

• **France** Europasie S.A.R.L. Paris • **Holland** Ming

Yay, Amsterdam • **Hong Kong** Foreign Press

Distributors Ltd. • **Japan** Koyosha Co. Ltd., Tokyo •

Macau Starlight Bookstore Ltd.; The World Book

Company; Plaza Cultural Macau Ltd. • **Malaysia**

Pustaka Lively, Tawau, Sabah • **Singapore**

Marketasia Distributors (S) Pte. Ltd. (65) 6744 8483 •

Thailand Chew Hong Service Ltd., Bangkok • **The**

Philippines Good Quality Merchandising, Manila •

U.S.A. China Periodical Distribution, Los Angeles;

Oriental Culture Enterprise Co., New York; China Daily

Distribution Corp., New York

China Advertising License: ICAD006

News-stand price: HK\$38

Printed in Hong Kong

Copyright reserved



FROM THE EDITOR

Choices Galore in Guangdong

This month we focus on Guangdong and our lead feature takes a look at tourism in Guangdong from four different themes.

Although we didn't need reminding we were as ever agreeably surprised at the range and diversity of landscapes, and cultural and active tourism opportunities on offer in China as a whole and Guangdong in particular. Whether you want to climb hills, play on the beach, marvel at wondrous rock formations, be culturally enlightened or just soak away your troubles at a luxurious hot pool resort, there just has to be something for everyone here.

Another thing that also never fails to astonish us is the growth in consumer spending power in China in the 21st Century. There has been very heavy investment in the development of tourist facilities in the past few years and many of these facilities are of a very high standard. High standards don't come cheap yet there appears no shortage of well-heeled patrons. Discerning tourists will not be disappointed here, the best are world-class tourist destinations.

Every now and then we have a comment to make. One recurring observation from our intrepid travel writers in their mission to extend our horizons and whet our appetites for more travel is the frustrations they come up against as solo travellers. Getting a meal for one in restaurants geared to cater for parties, waiting in a bus that will not move until there are sufficient passengers on board, minimum numbers for tours to start ...

Let's hope we don't end up with a situation where the lone traveller, always a figure with a romantic aura, becomes marginalised.

Whether you voyage alone or prefer going in groups — happy travels in Guangdong or wherever.

Photo by Xie Guanghui



Programme to Promote Kunming

In order to boost the national and international image of Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan Province, a new programme called "Marketing Kunming" will be launched.

The programme, following modern marketing theory, will promote the inland city to the outside world to attract more investment, technology and skilled professionals. It aims to incorporate all kinds of new products and services and develop Kunming's latent advantages to enter into the world market as a well-known city in its own right.

Kunming is known as the "City of Eternal Spring" for its beautiful scenery and rich natural resources. However, other aspects of the city such as its advanced biological engineering, software technology and the paramedical industry are unknown to the world.

China Tipped as World's Top Tourist Destination by 2020

As the World Tourism Organisation predicts, by 2020, China will become largest tourism destination and the fourth major source of tourists in the world.

The rapid development of China's tourism during the past decade has exceeded global expectations. Many overseas visitors come to China to gain a better understanding of its long history, unique ethnic culture and enjoy its beautiful and diverse landscapes.

In 2001, China's income from international tourists has reached US\$17.8 billion, the first time the country surpassed Britain and Germany, ranking fifth in profits from tourism after the United States, Spain, France and Italy. The Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region alone earned 1.1 billion yuan from tourism last year. The regional government plans to double tourism income by 2005 to take the tour.

In the future, China will gradually phase out regional restrictions on foreign operators, simplify procedures for approving foreign-invested projects and bring the regulatory system into line with international practice.

China Renovates Slavery Museum

A museum devoted to a slave society that disappeared only 50 years ago has been modernised and expanded in Sichuan Province, Southwest China.

Relic exhibits have been added to the Museum of the Yi Ethnic Group as a Slave Society, which covers 30,000 square meters and is located in Lushan, southeast of Xichang City. With a population of 1.8 million, the Yi, the sixth largest of China's 55 ethnic groups, was still a slave society until the 1950s, when democratic reforms were introduced.

The museum was also equipped for the first time with modern facilities such as video, sound and electronic demonstration tools. About 2,000 cultural relics are on display in the museum, including more than 30 listed by the central government as national treasures. Weapons used by rebel slaves-bows and arrows, spears and swords-are also shown in the museum.

The museum was built in 1985 at a cost of two million yuan (US\$230,000), and the renovation project cost nearly four million yuan (US\$460,000).

China Restoring, Preserving World's Wetland "Kidneys"

Often referred to as the world's "kidneys", China's wetland areas have been for a time endangered by its rapid agricultural growth. Nowadays, China plans to have those ruined wetland areas reclaimed by 2020.

Excessive cultivation once reduced China's largest marshland area by more than three million hectares, or two thirds, on the Sanjiang (Three Rivers) Plain, an area between the Songhua, Nenjiang and Heilong rivers in the country's northernmost Heilongjiang Province.

The wetlands earned their nickname "kidneys" because of their vital role in water conservation and the prevention of erosion and flooding. However, their importance has not always been appreciated.

According to the action plan, China will work out a legal system for wetland protection and set up an advanced monitoring network for the wetland ecological system. By 2010, it will curb wetlands degradation caused by human activities and reclaim most natural wetlands by 2020.

To achieve this goal, China has so far invested 19.9 million yuan (US\$2.4 million) to return farmlands and pastures to wetlands, restore mangroves-believed to be natural protectors of maritime environment-along rivers and lakes, and set up wetland preservation zones, which had totaled 353 by June 2002.



China to Green Cities, River Embankments, Coastlines

China plans to green its more than 50,000 cities and towns, the embankments of its rivers, coastlines, and areas along its major railway and roads, and to restore vegetation in leading forest areas.

The plan was initiated by Prof. Jiang Zehui, vice-chairperson of the Human Resources and Environment Subcommittee of the National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The plan together with six major afforestation projects will help China double its forest coverage to 28.3 percent by 2050, said Prof. Jiang, who is also president of the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

China began large-scale biological conservation and construction projects in the late 1970s. The first included planting a 4,480 km shelterbelt in northern China, and later in areas along the Yangtse and Yellow rivers and the 18,000 km coastline.

Ancient Mausoleum to Be Restored in Lanzhou

The 2,800-year-old Xichui Mausoleum in Lixian County, Northwest China's Gansu Province, is now under restorations. It is planned to put the 18-sq-km where the ruins of the mausoleum are located under key protection. The project is designed to restore not only the original look of the mausoleum, but also make the surroundings of the mausoleum as close as possible to its state in ancient times. A museum is also planned on the site. A grain-for-green project has been started in the mausoleum area, with over 100 hectares of land will be planted in trees.

North China Province to Build "Rare-earth Valley"

North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has announced a plan to build the country's "Rare-Earth Valley" in Baotou City, the largest rare-earth mining area in the world.

The "Rare-earth Valley", which will consist of five parks, namely, the Education, Science and Technology, Pioneering, Industrial and Logistics parks, is expected to be a production and development base with global influence within the next 10~15 years.

By 2010, the 50-sq-km area of land is expected to reach a gross industrial output of 42.4 billion yuan (US\$5.11 billion), of which more than half will be generated by the rare-earth industry, from basic raw material production to the manufacture of integrated products.

At the present time, the proven rare-earth deposits in Baotou, in the northern part of the autonomous region, account for 54 percent of the world's total.



the gateway to Chinese hospitality



CENTRAL HOTEL
SHANGHAI
王寶和大酒店

555 Jiujiang Road, Shanghai 200001, P.R. China Tel: (86 21) 5396 5000 Fax: (86 21) 5396 5188
www.centralhotelshanghai.com Email: chbc@centralhotelshanghai.com

Three Gorges Opens Wildlife Park

Yangtze The Three Gorges Forest and Wildlife Park has opened recently, giving visitors a chance to see endangered wild animals in a protected natural habitat.

Covering 72.04 hectares, the park is 14 km from downtown Yichang in Central China's Hubei Province and 45 km from the Three Gorges Dam, where a massive hydraulic project is being constructed.

Costing 120 million yuan (US\$14.45 million), the park will be a wild animal protection and breeding centre under the State Forestry Administration, which will take charge of salvaging, breeding and taking care of endangered wild animals in the Three Gorges area.

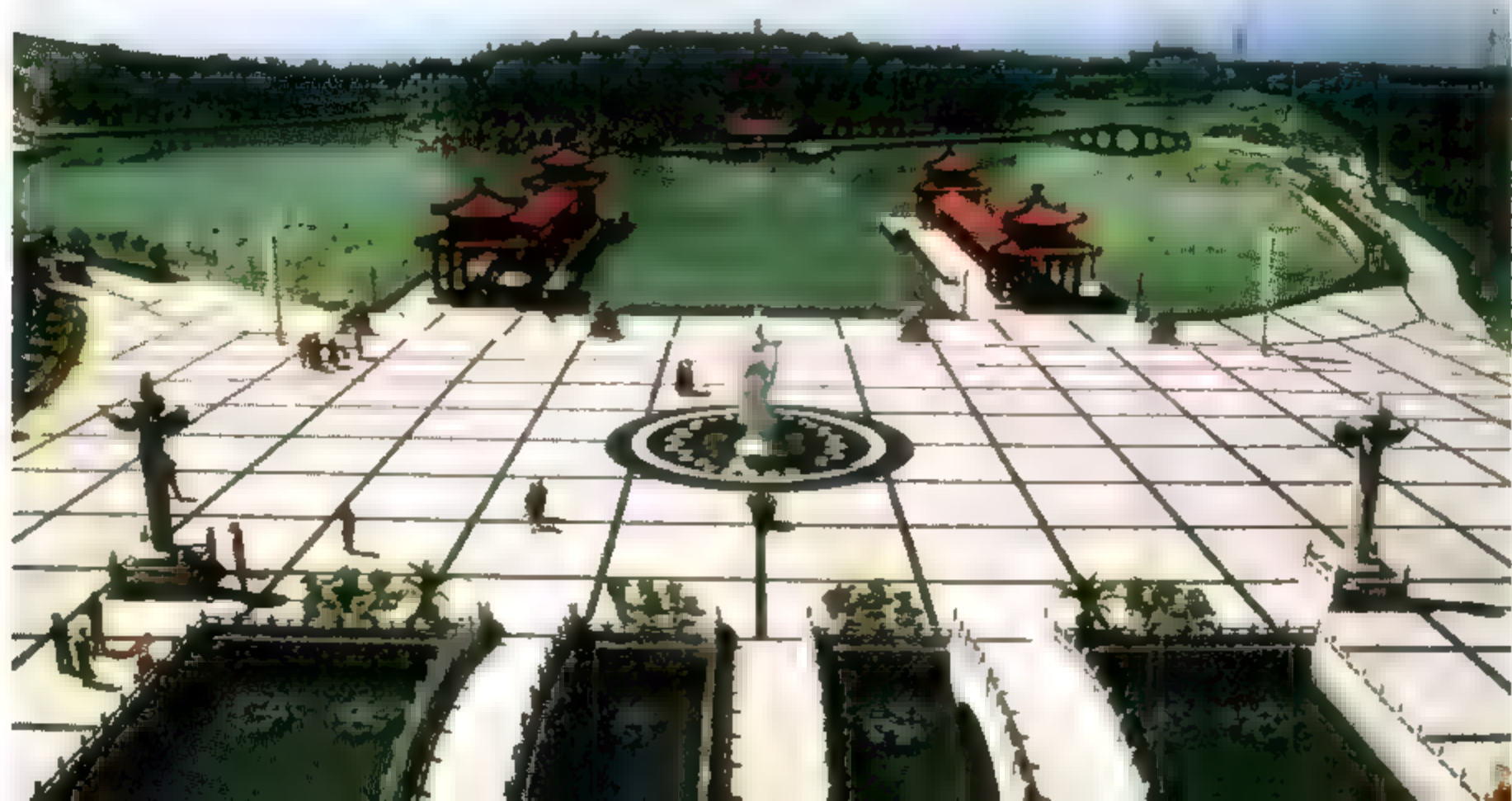
More than 100 species of animals will be introduced into the park. The first group, including 50 tigers, 30 black bears, 20 African lions and 20 crocodiles has already arrived. The park workers will carry out a series of training programs to prepare for sending the creatures back into the wild.

China Lotus Park Opens in Nandaihe

Hotel In the Nandaihe International Entertainment Centre, tourists can pay a visit to the recently opened "China Lotus Park". Based on a theme to promote the lotus culture, the construction of the park has involved an investment of 26 million yuan. In the 40-hectare park, tourists can visit the Yuehe Plaza, Thousand-lotus Lake, a mid-lake island, and an area modeling the water towns in southern China. The park boasts more than 300 kinds of lotuses, while the developer has ordered about 700 porcelain containers of various design to decorate the lotus lake. They are all made in Jingdezhen, known as the "hometown for porcelain in China" in Jiangxi Province. Moreover, another 100 ponds of two-metre-long and four-metre-wide built of cement are found in the plaza, planting more than 100 lotuses. The park is the largest lotus garden in North China, which binds affluent kinds of lotuses, the art of garden architecture, sculptures, and lotus culture.

Transport: The park is 250 km away from Beijing, and can be reached by both train or bus. It only needs three hours to drive to there through the Beijing-Shenyang Expressway.

(Photo & information by Li Ping)



Ancient Ceramic Kiln in Foshan

Guangdong Despite the ancestral temples, Foshan, a city in Guangdong, is also well known for ceramic wares. As early as the New Stone Age, inhabitants in Foshan started the history of making ceramics, earning the place the reputation of "ancient town of potteries".

The 500-year-old "Nan Feng Gu Zhou" (Southern Taste Ancient Kiln) in Shiwan (Stone Bay), a town near Foshan, is a place where ceramic-lovers should not miss, because they can make potteries themselves there. Dating back 5,000 years, there were already stone instruments made with ceramics in Stone Bay. Ceramic industry had experienced prosperous development, and the place had owned 100-plus ceramic kiln at its prime time. The Southern Taste Ancient Kiln which faces to the south is the only one built in that period.

Just entering the complex, tourists may see a series of antique buildings with ceramic roofs. Besides the three-storey-high murals, the two kilns for heating ceramic wares are most remarkable. The ancient kiln has set up a factory where staff can demonstrate the making of ceramics in live and give tourists as souvenirs.

Nan Feng Gu Zhou (Southern Taste Ancient Kiln)

Add: 6 Gaomiao Road, Shiwan Town, Foshan City, Guangdong

Admission: 8 yuan; pottery-making ticket (excluding heating): 25 yuan; heating: 30 yuan

Opening hours: 08:00~18:00

Tel: (757) 2711 798

Chinese website: www.nfak.com.cn

(Photo & information by Liang Juqiao)

Weekend Package in St. Regis of China

Hotel From now until December 31, 2002, travellers can take advantage of the Weekend Package offered by the St. Regis Beijing and St. Regis Shanghai.

The highlights of the package include customised and discreet service by the legendary St. Regis butlers, as well the following: Daily buffet breakfast, 24 hour butler service, late check-out until 16:00, complimentary pressing of garments upon arrival, complimentary shuttle service to key cultural and entertainment spots (Shanghai only), 20% discount for food and beverage at all restaurants and bars, 20% discount for spa treatments at the St. Regis Spa, complimentary local calls (Shanghai only), broadband Internet access, daily "wind down" reception at the Executive Lounge from 17:00 to 19:00, access to a comprehensive range of hotel facilities including extensive meeting facilities, a large indoor swimming pool, tennis court, and health and fitness centre.

The St. Regis Weekend Package is available for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from US\$145+(Shanghai) and from US\$185+(Beijing), and is subject to a 15% surcharge.

Inquiry no.: (10) 6460 6688 (Beijing) or (21) 5050 4567 (Shanghai);

Fax: (10) 6532 1191 (Beijing) or (21) 5830 3598 (Shanghai).

Business Traveller Asia-Pacific 2002 Annual Travel Awards



Thailand The consumer travel magazine *Business Traveller Asia-Pacific* has announced the results of its annual readers' poll in 2002 on September 20, 2002, at the Conrad Hotel Hong Kong. Princess Ubol Ratana Mahidol of Thailand, as the Guest of Honour, has presented awards to the top business hotels in 15 major regional business destinations.

Singapore has repeated its success of last year by winning every major category in the 2002 readers poll. The Singapore Airlines was voted world's best airline, Singapore Changi was voted world's best airport, Singapore the favourite business city in the world, and the Shangri-La Singapore the best business hotel in the world. Other major awards are listed below:

Best Airport Hotel in Asia-Pacific ~ Regal Airport Hong Kong
Best Business Hotel in Beijing ~ Grand Hyatt Beijing
Best Business Hotel in Guangzhou ~ White Swan Hotel
Best Business Hotel in Hong Kong ~ The Peninsula Hong Kong
Best Business Hotel in Shanghai ~ Grand Hyatt Shanghai
Best Business Hotel in Taipei ~ Grand Hyatt Taipei

Business Traveller Asia-Pacific distributed a total of 9,885 poll forms to subscribers and the response rate was more than 7%. The results were compiled by market-research company NFO WorldGroup-Hong Kong and have been published in the October issue of the magazine.

Province Museum Opens in Fuzhou

Fujian Located between the West Lake Park and Zuohai (Left Sea) Park in Fuzhou, capital city of East China's Fujian Province, the Fujian Museum has completed and opened partly for the public on October 1, 2002. Occupying an area of six hectares and an architectural area of 35,800 square metres, the building has involved an investment of RMB 270 million, which makes it the grandest cultural infrastructure item ever built in Fujian Province.

The Fujian Museum has integrated information in the aspects of history, relics, archeology, and research on the nature. It is also the centre of storing relics in Fujian Province, promotion and education, as well as conducting scientific research. Administrative units in the museum include a display department, saving department, business exchange department, archaeology department, and nature department. Inside the gardening skills garden, there are 200,000 pieces of historical relics and natural specimens, in which about 6,000 pieces are valuable collections.

Recently, the museum has already opened nine theme exhibition halls featuring the ancient civilisation of Fujian, contemporary history of Fujian, traditional Fujian porcelain wares, Fujian opera, precious collection of artifacts and Chinese calligraphy or paintings, exhibitions of contemporary Fujian-born artists, etc.

Hangzhou Most Competitive City

Zhejiang In a survey of major cities by Zhejiang Province, capital Hangzhou was ranked the first in competitiveness. The other cities are ranked in the following order: Ningbo, Wenzhou, Shaoxing, Taizhou, Jiaxing, Huzhou, Zhoushan, Jinhua, Quzhou and Lishui. Ningbo, was rated to have the best foreign-investment environment and Wenzhou, the most enterprising people.

The Pushi River Provincial Forest Park, Fengcheng

Liaoning Fengcheng, a city located in the northern part of Northeast China's Liaoning Province, is renowned for owning wide area of forests and rivers. Famous spots of the city include Fenghuang (Phoenix) Mountain State Scenic Area, Pushi River Provincial Forest Park, and Dali (Big Pear) Tree Ecology Scenic Area.

Fenghuang Mountain: At a distance of 57 km away from Dandong, China's largest boundary city and covering 216 sq km, the highest peak of the scenic area, Zunyun Peak, stands 836.4 above sea level. It is also one of the four famous mountains in Liaoning.

Dali Tree: The 21-sq-km scenic area is situated 12 km from the city area of Fengcheng, and is the mere ecological demonstration area in China. Scenic spots inside include the Huaguo (Flower and Fruit) Hill, Shuilian Cave, Small Canal area, Hi-tech agriculture garden area, water funland, and family farmland area. Visitors can appreciate fresh flowers, or even bring away fruits and vegetables around the year in the site.

Pushi River Forest Park: With a 92 % vegetation, the 90-sq-mt park is established along the landscape of the nearby hills which form 126 peaks, with eight among them standing over 1,000 metres above sea level. The crystal-clear Pushi River runs through the forest park, forming 72 waterfalls and ponds, while scent of flowers fills the air. The forest park is also unique for having a large variety and quantity of butterflies.



(The Pushi River Forest Park)



Mêdog — an Unforgettable Place

Writer: Shui Xiaojie (税晓洁)

Born in Shaanxi, Shui Xiaojie graduated from the Fine Arts Department of Hubei Shiyan University. He is now a freelance writer and photographer. His articles and photos appear in People's Daily, Southern Weekend, Asia Week and China Photography and he has published some books as well.

Everyone who loves travelling should visit this place.

Mêdog is the "treasured place of the lotus" in the hearts of pilgrims to Tibet. In the ninth century, Padmasambhava, the founder of the Red Sect of Lamaism, was invited by Tibetan King Trisong Detsen to visit Tibet. While searching for a sacred mystical land during the course of his journey, he was attracted by Mêdog's unique scenery. He practised Buddhism here and named Mêdog "White Horse Hill". Based on his vision, the well-known Tibetan scripture *Kangyur* refers to Mêdog as "a pure Buddhist land and the most mystic realm of Heaven".

Once I had carefully looked at this county and its surrounding mountains, it really did look like a lotus flower in full bloom. However the county itself offers little for the casual tourist, with only a few houses and, as everything must be carried there by horse or man, high prices. So I think Mêdog is of symbolic importance only to the Tibetans.

Deep in the Yarlung Zangbo Great Canyon, this is the last county in China without highway access. There is a saying that you are not qualified to talk about roads until you have been to Mêdog, because no road is harder than the track to Mêdog. Basically I agree with this, as it's really the most difficult road I have ever taken. But it's not as terrible as legend has it, and the rugged road to Mêdog has much to interest the intrepid traveller.

The best route to Mêdog is across the

snow-capped Mt. Doxongla from Paixiang, via Hanmi, Lage and Baibung. Travel this route for three or four days and you will experience altitudes ranging from 4,000 metres above sea level in the alpine zone to a few hundred metres above sea level in the tropic zone. This is the main post route to Mêdog at present. Anyone in good health can make it if the path is in normal condition.

The return trip might take three to four days if you follow the Yarlung Zangbo River from Mêdog, go up to 108K, then reach Bome by climbing over snow-capped Mt. Galungla. The best route I took was going up along the Yarlung Zangbo River from 108K, reaching Gade via Pangxing and Qarasa. This can be covered in five or six days. The most difficult part was from Gade, via the Lugu Village across the river, to Bayu, because there was simply no track available. After Bayu, there is a well-trodden path leading to Zhaqu, well known at the end of the river's big curve. Another day or two along the Yarlung Zangbo brings you to Pelung on the Sichuan-Tibet highway and back to civilization.

The great reward for taking this route is that you can have a look at two series of waterfalls on the Yarlung Zangbo River, considered important discoveries for world geography. A week or so should be enough for a round trip from Bayu Village to the Zangbobadong Waterfalls, and another week or so should enable you to go to the Rongchag Waterfalls from Zhaqu and return.

Once you have been to these places, you will have experienced the major attractions of the Yarlung Zangbo River.

But it is rather risky to go to the two waterfalls, and from Gade to Bayu, without adequate material and spiritual preparation, and I am not joking.

One of the reasons for my enthusiasm for Mêdog is that the Yarlung Zangbo Great Canyon, where Mêdog is located, makes a large U-shaped curve around Mt. Namjagbarwa at the eastern end of the Himalayas. Continue up the Yarlung Zangbo River and halfway along it at the centre of the Himalayas is the highest peak in the world — Peak Qomolangma. Beyond the source of the Yarlung Zangbo River at the western end of the Himalayas, another river makes a large U-shaped curve around a mountain. This is where the upper reaches of the Indus River go around Mt. Namjagparbata, the ninth highest peak in the world at 8,125 metres above sea level. Scientists marvel at the symmetry created by the two corresponding mountains at either end of the Himalayas, both of them with large U-shaped valleys cut by large rivers. The Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau and the Himalayas are the youngest plateau and mountain range on earth and are still growing. They are regarded as the golden keys to the gate of earth's history, and the two valleys or two "earth's nodes" are naturally its ideal keyholes. This must be why the scenery is so miraculous in Mêdog.

The Search for Shangri-La

Article by Winnie So

I first heard about Lijiang in Yunnan Province over dinner when a friend suggested going there.

I have never been very knowledgeable about travelling in China, but something about this small town intrigued me.

However in the end, after a four-day, three-night trip to this fabled locale, I am no wiser about China or the Chinese, and maybe that was precisely what I was meant to see in Shangri-La.

We flew into the town via an indirect route on Dragonair to Kunming and then on China Southern Airlines to Lijiang, but it was a waste of time, as it required an overnight stay in Kunming. I would recommend flying direct to Lijiang from Shenzhen. The airport in Lijiang is small, and our airplane was the only one there.

Our arrival into Lijiang was a bit disappointing. The new part of town was no more attractive than an American suburban strip mall. Even the entrance into the old part of town, which consisted of two water mills and a wall with Jiang Zemin's inscription and one with an introduction to the city, was not very interesting. It was as if we were about to enter a theme park rather than a traditional town.

Since cars are not allowed into the old part of town, we walked through the main street that was lined with shops and filled with tourists. The stores sold tea, silver trinkets, fabric, woodcarvings and crafts by the Naxi people, an ethnic minority group indigenous to the area.

Our hotel was nothing I had imagined. I was expecting a quaint, courtyard style inn. What I got was a courtyard style, four-star hotel.

Commercial tourism has truly arrived Lijiang. Most hotels were very comfortable, most with televisions and phones. Rooms with private bathrooms ranged from 120~200 yuan a night, while those without were under 80 yuan. There were even inns offering rooms with a shuttered veranda overlooking crystal clear canal water and weeping willows near a picturesque stone bridge.

Likewise, with restaurants, there were numerous choices — everything from local Naxi fare to restaurants serving up Chinese, Western, Japanese and even Korean food. Pizza was very popular at several restaurants along the canal on Xinhua Street. Their menus were in Chinese and English. This was a town used to outsiders.

As I walked along Lijiang's main streets, I felt as though the shopkeepers were like Disney employees wearing ethnic costumes

and acting out a character, in this case, the Naxi people.

But further into town, past narrow quiet alleyways I stepped into another world. Here I felt a sense of quietude and calm. Time did not matter, and people were extremely friendly and a sense of community and neighbourliness was everywhere. Living room doors were left open to the streets. As we passed by one, an old lady sitting alone inside beckoned for us to come inside.

"Sit and have some tea," she urged.

We went in, but we felt we were intruding on this Naxi grandma's home, so we thanked her and soon moved along. As we continued our walk, other residents also invited us into their homes. People here were genuinely friendly, with no motive other than to be hospitable. This is where the townsfolk of Lijiang seemed the most real. But being shy city dwellers, we did not want to impose on these people and it was impossible not to notice just how strong the cultural gap is between urban and rural China. It was difficult to truly understand their world. In a strange way, we were more comfortable on the tourist side of town, where products, services and smiles all came with price tags.

But while the commercialism of Lijiang was obvious, there were moments that reminded us that this was a town that cared about residents and visitors.

I was sitting canal side for breakfast one morning when my sunglasses fell into the canal. We asked a waiter to help fish it out, as the water is so clear we could see the sunglasses lying at the bottom. The waiter tried many different poles, and after 15 minutes, managed to get my sunglasses. I offered him five yuan for his hard work. He looked embarrassed and shook his hand declining my offer.

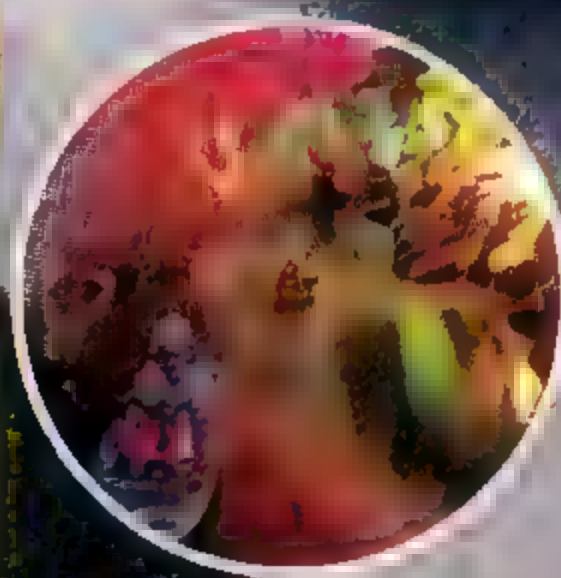
So this was Shangri-La, I did not find any answers in my quest for the true Lijiang, but I did get a glimpse, a peek, into the lives of rural China. I also got a chance to really examine the contradictions of tourism. While it brings in money and tremendous potential for growth to remote areas, often the money is only spent on things they think tourists will like, thereby making everything appear more artificial.

Tourists, especially seasoned tourists, are no better either. We constantly demand new destinations to take us out of our environments, usually big cities. We seek new, authentic, different experiences and in the pursuit of the exceptional, we too are conspirators in the commercialisation of Shangri-Las everywhere. In the end, Shangri-La will remain what it is — a fable, a myth, and an ideal that lives only in our imaginations.



11111111111111111111


FOUR DIFFERENT THEMES IN GUANGDONG



- Northern Guangdong: Landscape and Custom Tours in Shaoguan and Qingyuan
- Western Guangdong: Beach Holiday in Zhanjiang
- Eastern Guangdong: Heritage and Nature Tours in Heyuan
- Guangdong: Hot Spring Highlights





 In recent years, with the rapid development of the Pearl River Delta, Guangdong Province has risen to the front rank of China's economic powerhouses. However, people might well ask, what else does Guangdong offer besides money and opportunity? Of course, it has stunning landscapes, simple customs and beliefs dear to its locals and hot springs in glorious abundance. This isn't generalised hype. So fully enjoy the best of Guangdong portrayed in the following pages.



Northern Guangdong: Landscape and Custom Tours in Shaoguan and Qingyuan

Photos by Xie Guanghui Article by Jackie



I started my six-day holiday riding on the Kowloon - Beijing railway bound for Shaoguan. I planned to explore Shaoguan and its Mt. Danxia, dubbed the "most fantastic mountain south of the Five Ridges". Qingyuan and Lianzhou cities, and nearby Liannan and Lianshan, two remote and poor places in Guangdong, were also on my itinerary. I hoped the trip might help me escape the pressures of urban life and put me back in touch with nature.



A Walk on Glowing Mt. Danxia

Danxia Mountains, nine kilometres away from Shaoguan in the south of Renhua County, is regarded as the finest among Guangdong's four mountains. The others are



Luofu, Xiqiao and Dinghu. Strictly speaking Danxia is more than one mountain as it has three peaks, Zhanglao, Hailuo and Baozhu. Danxia also refers to a 215 sq km mountain tourist zone encompassing the three major scenic areas of Mt. Danxia, Mt. Dashi and Mt. Shaoshi. Mt. Danxia, the focal point, has tourist spots at three elevations: the lowest is Jingshi Rock, in the middle is Biechuan Temple, and then the mountain top itself. The Mt. Danxia Tourist Area straddling Renhua and Qujiang counties is situated in the basin of Lingnan area (south of the Five Ridges in Guangdong and Guangxi). It also has a red stone forest that includes 380 peaks, forts, walls, pillars and bridges all of stone.

Mt. Danxia is so named because of its deep red sandstone topography. The red sandstones were formed between the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. In the 1920s Chinese researchers based on Mt. Danxia led the world in the study of red sandstone. This sandstone landform became known as Danxia (red cloud) topography. It is mainly found in China, western United States, central Europe and Australia.

Itineraries

Day 1 Afternoon Train from Hong Kong to Shaoguan. Time: 6.5 hours
Evening Arrive in Shaoguan

Day 2 Sightseeing at Mt Danxia

Day 3 Morning Take public bus to Lianzhou. The trip takes 4 to 5 hours and covers 202 km
Afternoon Arrive in Lianzhou, have lunch, and visit Fushan ancient temple and Leaning Tower of Huiguang or have a rest at hotel

Day 4 Morning Visit Huangchuan Three Gorges in Lianzhou (about 2 hours)
Afternoon Visit the underground river in Lianzhou (about 2 hours)

Day 5 Morning Visit Mt. Daxu Waterfall Ecological Area in Lianshan (about 2 hours), the bus ride takes two hours
Afternoon Bus to Liannan to visit the Yao ethnic village (about 1.5 hours), the bus trip takes 1.5 hours
Dusk Join the campfire party in Liannan County, then take bus back to Lianzhou. The bus ride takes half an hour

Day 6 Morning Bus to Guangzhou. The journey covers 240 km and takes 4 hours.
Noon Arrive in Guangzhou. Go shopping till dusk then catch train back to Hong Kong

China has the richest reserves and Mt. Danxia features the largest, most widespread distribution of this landform. The mountain is shaped like red rubies and is also known as Red Sandstone Park.

I walked onto the rosy mountain. Though the surrounding peaks are not that towering, most being 300 to 500 metres above sea level with the main peak at 618 metres, the way they rise so abruptly from the ground makes them look more precipitous.

Mt. Danxia has a long history. During the Sui and Tang Dynasties (581—907), it was a famous mountain and Buddhist shrine. It has many cultural sites including 100-year-old monasteries, temples, cliff engravings, stone carvings, ancient tombs and grottos. Dozens of natural caverns in the mountain have been developed for Buddhist rites. Biechuan Temple was built in 1662 during the reign of Qing Emperor Kangxi by prominent monk Tan Gui. I met many pilgrims in the temple.

Mt. Danxia

Add: Renhua County, Shaoguan City

Admission: 25 yuan

Cableway (adults): 40 yuan going up, 30 yuan coming down, 55 yuan for a return trip.

Cruise in Jingjiang River: 20 yuan

Opening page: Mt. Danxia is known as the best of the Four Famous Mountains in Guangdong (by Chen Xun)

Previous page: In ancient times, goods were shipped from Guangzhou to Lianzhou via Huangchuan. Nowadays, Huangchuan is a fishing port instead of a transport intersection (by Xie Guanghui)

1. Wonderful karst landscape is seen everywhere in northern Guangdong (by Chen Xun)

2. Mt. Danxia's cultural features include stone carvings, hanging coffins and ruins of grottos (by Shi Baoxiu)

3. Mt. Danxia is both a State-level Scenic Area and State Geology and Landform Nature Reserve (by Li Ming)





Lianzhou — Strategic Town in Qingyuan

As I went from Shaoguan to Lianzhou, I felt the city's bustle evaporating. Although northern Guangdong has a less advanced economy, Lianzhou itself has a well-established transport network, urbanization and telecommunications after two decades of progress. Its newly developed scenic spots attract tourists at weekends.

Huangchuan Three Gorges

Huangchuan Three Gorges is a must-visit place in Lianzhou.

Huangchuan, an ancient name for the Lianjiang River, is the main tributary of the Beijiang River system in the Pearl River Delta. The river

risers in Mt. Hongyan in Xingzi Town. It flows through Lianzhou, Yangshan and Yingde and finally merges with the Beijiang River. It is also known as the Lesser Beijiang River. Thanks to the karst topography, access to Huangchuan Three Gorges is as difficult as at the Three Gorges on the Yangtse River. While as graceful as the Lijiang River in Guilin, Huangchuan differs in that its waterfalls flank the river. Han Yu (768—824), a literary giant in the Tang Dynasty, once created an ode to these waterfalls.

Huangchuan Three Gorges is the jewel in the crown of the Huangchuan Scenic Zone. It combines the beauty of the Yangtse and Lijiang Rivers. DIY travellers enjoy its freedom though the expense is high.

Bad Luck Behind the Haven on Earth

The boat pattered along the river, first passing through Longquan Gorge. Luckily I have been to the Yangtse's Three Gorges and the Lijiang River. Huangchuan Three Gorges is not as confined as Lijiang or as splendid as the Yangtse's Three Gorges, but it is worth visiting and the entrance fee to it only costs 25 yuan. More than 10 waterfalls came into view followed by stalactites hanging from the cliff (usually stalactites hang from the roof of the caverns).

Lengjia is the second gorge. It is also known as "Shiwai Taoyuan" (Haven on Earth). Yet it has a tale of misfortune behind it. The ancestors of the 13 households living in the gorge area were from a merchant fleet in the late Qing Dynasty. At that time, they shipped goods from Guangzhou to Lianzhou but were sacked by bandits when

passing the gorge. They couldn't return and settled here instead. Turning to farming, they lived a self-sufficient and simple life. Huangchuan River had brought them bad luck as well as wealth.

The last gorge, Yangti, boasts the most beautiful scenery. The gorge has hills, peaks, and green bamboo and willows on both sides complemented by silver-braided waterfalls and gurgling streams. A poem by Han Yu engraved on the palisades of the gorge, conveys the poet's homesickness when he was on a business trip here.

Huangchuan Three Gorges

Add: Huangchuan Road South, Lianzhou City Tel: (763) 6635 712

Admission: 25 yuan (luxury boat) per person

NB: The boat does not sail until it has 10 passengers. There are two wharfs in

Huangchuan, one on the Huangchuan Road South, the other at the sluice. Travel groups usually board the boat at the Huangchuan Road wharf.

Underground River Condenses Time and Space

The same afternoon, I visited the underground river in Lianzhou. Tourists can take the pink public bus bound for Lianzhou in front of the city government centre. The one-hour bus ride is very convenient and costs five yuan.

Once again, I experienced the frustration of the solo traveller. When I arrived, no travel group was there. The ticket seller told me that a minimum of five tourists at a time is needed for entry. I had to wait.

Luckily, an 18-tourist party arrived 20 minutes later and I was able to join them. After less than half an hour, the place felt very familiar to me. It was like the Guanyan Rock in Lijiang River and Fengyu Rock in Lipu, both in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. They are all typical of sub-tropical limestone caverns in South China. According to geologists, the Lianzhou underground river was a boundless ocean about 200 million years ago. Later due to movements of the earth's crust, the land rose. A large collapse occurred during a second period of instability, resulting in the present four levels of caverns. At the bottom runs the underground Yinhe (Silver River), 50 to 60 metres below the ground. The 1,500-metre river flows through four mountains and past three gorges — the Longmen (Dragon Gate), Lianhua (Lotus), and Xiangjiao (Banana) gorges. The river is 1.6 metres at its narrowest place, barely enough for a boat, and seven metres at its deepest. The temperature in the cavern remains 18~22°C all year

round, an ideal place to escape freezing winter and scorching summer.

The underground river is a superb example of nature's craftsmanship. Two hundred million years is such a long time in human terms but no time at all in the history of the universe. I deeply appreciated this natural "antique" created over such a long period of time.

Lianzhou Underground River

Add: Dadong Village, Dongpo Town, Lianzhou City

Tel: (763) 6269 189 Admission: 50 yuan

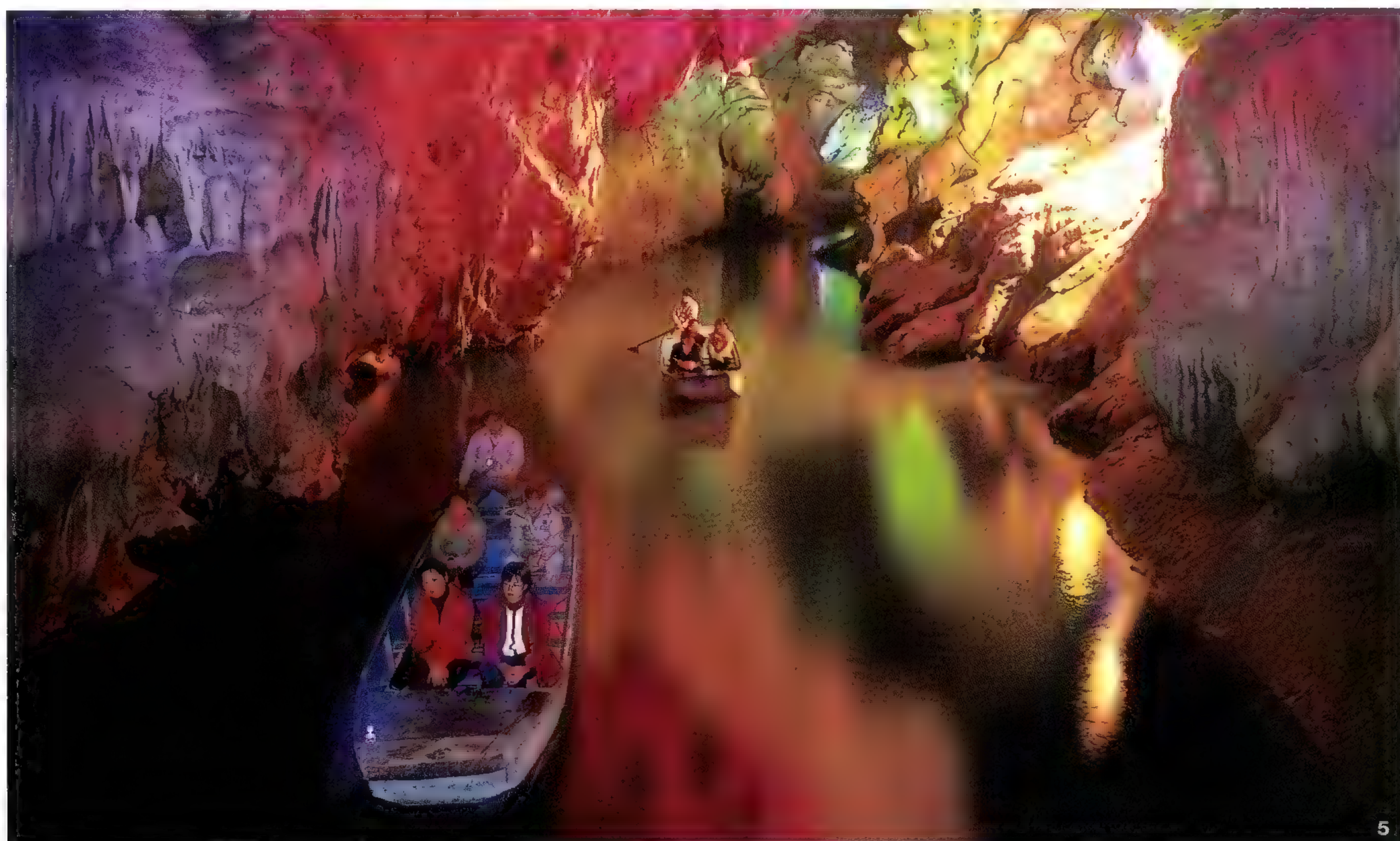
Opening hours: 08:30~16:30

NB: Only a group of 20 people is allowed to enter at one time. Otherwise one needs to wait 30 minutes. It takes one hour to walk the second, third and fourth levels, while a cruise takes 20 minutes.

Lianshan — Mostly Mountains

All up, 87 percent of the Lianshan Zhuang and Yao Autonomous County is mountainous. It is thus described "nine of the 10 parts are mountains, and of the remainder half is water and half is field". One of the 16 poorest counties in Guangdong, Lianshan is also the place where the Zhuangs, the largest ethnic group in China, live. Few

1. Air close to the Mt. Daxu waterfalls has high anion density
2. Huangchuan Three Gorges feature lots of waterfalls
3. Fishing families eat, sleep and live in their small fishing boats
4. Huangchuan River, the ancient name of the Lianjiang River, is the main tributary of the Beijiang River in the Pearl River Delta
5. The underground Silver River is 50~60 metres below the ground and 1,500 metres long, running through four mountains. Tourists can take a cruise along three gorges





tourists come here, most visitors are from the Hope Project or social service organisations.

Charmed by Unsophisticated Country Scene

Next morning, I took a public bus to Lianshan.

The place is charming despite being poor. The bus wound its way on the meandering mountain path. I was absorbed in the beautiful scenery on the way: terraced fields, cottages, verdant trees, and green mountains. The crisscrossing footpaths, straight wires, tilted roofs and various flowers and grass presented a picture of simple rural life. Local people in ethnic costumes were working in the fields. Amid such picturesque and dynamic scenery, one feels closer to nature and has fewer desires for material things. I remembered a book by a Chinese philosopher describing how nature's blessings are unconditional and bestowed equally on all races. Yet mankind is wantonly ruining the environment. I can't help worrying that one day man might have to pay the price for this folly.

The Over-Hyped Mt. Daxu

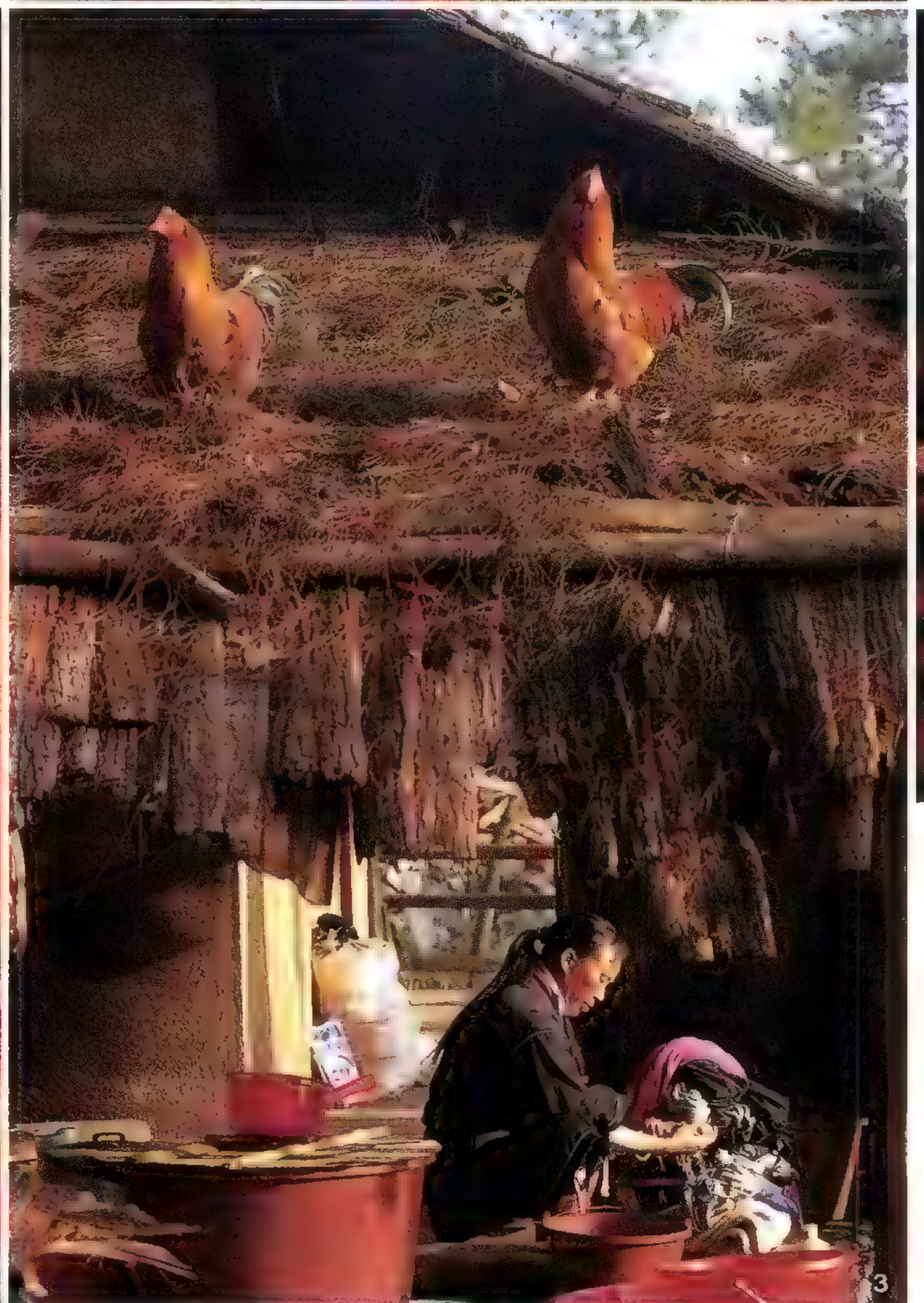
After two hours, we arrived at the bus station. Lianshan City proper is well planned, cleaner and tidier than Lianzhou or Liannan. Its tourism industry is still in its infancy with too few facilities, especially

true in the Mt. Daxu Waterfall Ecological Area. Mt. Daxu in Sanshui Town, 13 km away from Lianshan County, is one of the few developed scenic attractions in Lianshan. Mt. Daxu is known as "the Jiuzhaigou (or Nine-Village Valley, Sichuan Province) of Guangdong". This reputation draws more visitors.

On arrival, I felt a bit disappointed. Mt. Daxu could not match Jiuzhaigou. Yet for a passing visitor on a long vacation it is worthwhile. Research shows the anion in the air here is thicker and near the waterfall reaches 40,000~100,000 units per cubic metre. Walking up the stone steps I saw Baiheya Waterfall, a wild banana forest, Guishou



2



3

Rock, Baoshi Rock and Cangjin (Hidden Gold) Cavern. If you find mountain climbing boring, then try the drifting tour. It covers 3.5 kilometres down the streams on Mt. Daxu. On both sides of the streams are rows of houses where the local Yao and Zhuang minorities live. Baiheya Waterfall is most splendid. Tourists could not help removing their shoes and jumping into the cool water. Legend says that the long Cangjin Cavern behind the waterfall owned huge hoards of gold, silver and jewellery in ancient times. However it is difficult to find the entrance.

Mt. Daxu Waterfall Ecological Area

Add: Sanshui Town, Lianshan County Tel: (763) 8920 224

Admission: 30 yuan for the mountain tour and 138 yuan for drifting tour

NB: Mosquito repellent should be applied against the mosquitoes and insects in dense trees and streams along the way.

Liannan — Hometown of the Yaos

One of the three ethnic autonomous counties in Guangdong Province, Liannan is home to about 100,000-plus Yao people. The Yaos shifted from the area around the Dongting Lake in Hunan Province to Guangdong to escape war during the Sui and Tang periods. These days, they form a large ethnic group.



Helpful Advice from the Elders

In the afternoon, I left Lianshan for Liannan to see Yao customs.

A one-and-a-half-hour drive brought me from Lianshan to Liannan, where I picked up a public bus to the Sanpai ancient stockade. I only met three other travellers, all male, because it was outside the tourist season. My young Yao guide wore traditional clothes and had a sweet smile. The Yao stockade comprises areas of different functions, including a workshop displaying Yao traditional wine-making

techniques; an oil-extraction ground showing the ancient pressing methods; rows of Yao-style "diaojiaolou" (houses made of bamboo and supported by wooden stakes); and bamboo water pipes, a special water supply system. Surrounding rock peaks, well known locally as "Wanshan Chaowang" (Ten Thousand Mountains Paying Respects to the Emperor), are very appealing particularly to photographers. Many face south and do look like they're paying their respects to the village. What an inspired imagination! Every morning when the sun rises, the peak forest is partly hidden in the clouds and mists; at sunset it gleams radiantly.

Bonfire Night with the Yao

In the Yao stockade, I saw a performance ground but was not lucky enough to see any Yao songs and dances. Miss Guide told me the performance depended on at least five visitors being present. What I most wanted to see was "Shua Ge Tang", the biggest festival in the Sanpai Yao stockade. This is also called "King Pan Festival", and falls on October 16. To commemorate the birthday of the wife of the first ancestor King Pan Gu, and to celebrate their harvest, the Sanpai Yao people hold a festival that day. The "Shua Ge Tang" event is held every other year, lasting one to three days. On the day, all villagers, men and women, old and young, are dressed in their holiday best, and go out in family groups to celebrate the festival. Although I tried hard to persuade them to perform "Shua Ge Tang", they dared not break away from custom.

Luckily, a Yao-style bonfire party is held every night, no matter how many visitors are present. On festival occasions more songs and dances are performed than on ordinary days.

The night party I attended was held in Liannan. Around the blazing bonfire, young men and women performed typical Yao folk dances and songs. Yao people delight in expressing their sentiments in song. The visitors were fascinated by the songs. The Yao also performed dances, such as Yanai Dance, Ox Horn Dance, Pat You, and Happy Yao Mountain. Singing love songs in antiphonal style, popular among young Yaos when they are courting, is traditionally called "Ou Sha Yao". "Ou" means to sing a song, while "Sha Yao" refers to a girl (Yao girls are thus called "Shayao girls"). Sometimes tourists were invited to join in the performance, such as the bamboo poles dance and the dance of broad shoes, as a happy climax to the evening.

Sanpai Yao Stockade

Add: Sanpai Town, Liannan County Tel: (763) 8515 027

Admission: 20 yuan Opening hours: 08:30~16:30

1. A Yao youngster beats a drum to pray for good luck
2. The Sanpai Yao Stockade shows the Yao lifestyle to tourists
3. The Sanpai Yao Stockade illustrates the Yaos' communal living customs
4. The Yao traditional bonfire night party is held every night at Liannan County. Around the blazing bonfire artists perform folk songs and dances



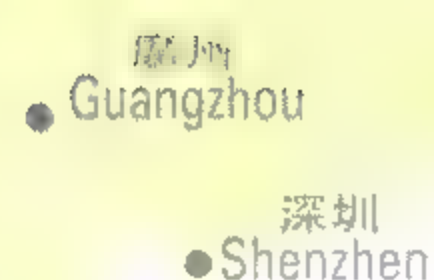
Western Guangdong: Beach Holiday in Zhanjiang

Photos by Chan Yat Nin, Shi Baoxiu, Xiao Ji, and others;
Article by Xiao Ji



Separated from Hainan Island by a strip of sea, Zhanjiang is a holiday paradise. Unlike other tourist areas with their fancy buildings and modern novelties, Zhanjiang draws holiday makers with its long beach, ancient volcanic island and its simple, unpretentious holiday villages, rich in local colour.

East Sea Island



In the long, hot summer days, everyone seems to have an urge to be near the sea.

From Zhanjiang's busy city district, the special tourist bus to Longhaitian (Dragon Sea Sky) takes less than an hour to reach Donghai (East Sea) Island, China's fifth largest island, far away from the noisy streets. At the end of the highway on the eastern side of the island, a walk towards the sea brings you to a huge sandy beach stretching as far as the horizon.

This is Longhaitian, the most famous beach in western Guangdong. Nearly 28 km long and 100~300 metres deep, it lies like a crescent moon along the island's coast. This "Golden Beach of Guangdong" attracts swimmers from all parts of Guangdong and even further afield in the holiday season.

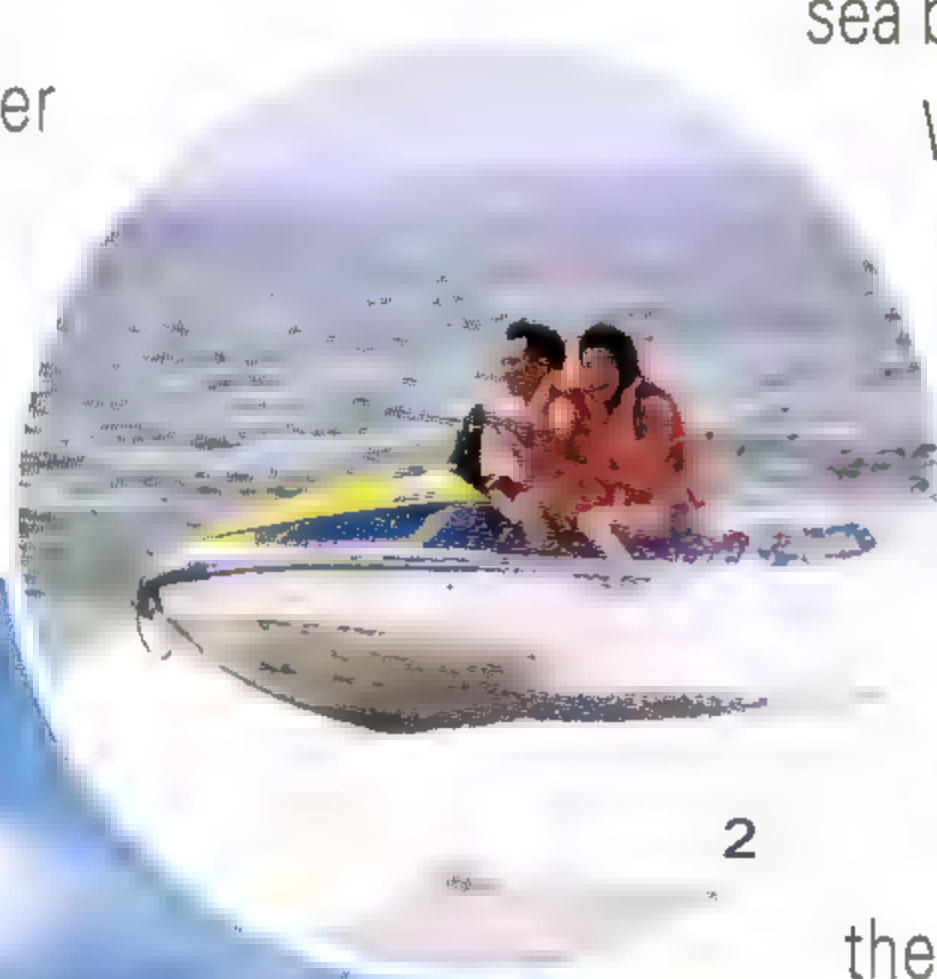
Attractions in the Sea and on the Beach

As the beach is so long and spacious, you never see terrifying swarms of bathers crowded together. The sky and the sea here seem to be higher and wider. To people living in crowded cities, this place is a paradise they have long been looking for.

Beach life is equally intriguing. Tame camels and large black horses wait for hire. You can ride one and pretend to be a star playing a role in a movie scene or masquerade as an ancient warrior battling on the sands. The beach is an excellent film-shoot location. To avoid the heat of the sun and thoroughly enjoy yourself, morning is the best time to hit the beach — or evening when a cool breeze blows. You can buy a beautiful kite and fly it on the beach. Seashell sellers ply the beach, too. You may find many beautiful specimens in their plastic buckets.

Fishing with a Draw Net

Local fishermen at work with a draw net is another interesting sight at Longhaitian. Fishing is the main source of income for the people on East Sea Island, who have lived off the sea for generations. Although



Itineraries

Day 1 Morning Fly to Zhanjiang from Hong Kong, Shenzhen or Guangzhou
 Noon Go to Longhaitian on East Sea Island for a swim in the sea and other beach activities of your choice
 Evening Stay at a seaside holiday hotel
 One may choose to take the night train from Guangzhou the night before and reach Zhanjiang the following morning

Day 2 Morning From East Sea Island to Naozhou Island by boat for a half-day tour around the island
 Afternoon Walk along Bianfang Street and in the nearby villages and immerse yourself in the local atmosphere
 Dusk Return by boat and take a mini-bus at the jetty back to the city of Zhanjiang. Tour the Seaside Park and City on the Sea in the evening and stay over night at Zhanjiang

Day 3 Morning To Wushi Tianchengtai Holiday Village in Leizhou by bus
 Noon Rent a boat and try your hand at sea fishing and then enjoy a fisherman's cuisine. Upon returning, pick fruit in the holiday village's orchard
 Dusk Swim at the beach of the holiday village and watch the sunset
 Evening Enjoy the holiday village's recreational facilities or watch the stars from the beach. Have a good sleep after bathing in the hot spring

Day 4 Option 1 Bus back to the city of Zhanjiang and visit Huguang Rock, Institute of South Asian Tropical Plants and Sika deer park and then take the night train to Guangzhou or fly back to Hong Kong, Shenzhen or Guangzhou
 Option 2 Bus back to the city of Leizhou and visit the Shrine of the Thunder God, Tianning Temple and Leizhou's West Lake then return to Zhanjiang and take the night train to Guangzhou or fly back to Hong Kong, Shenzhen or Guangzhou

Longhaitian is a holiday resort these days, the locals are still engaged in fishing, and using a draw net is their traditional method.

During the fishing season in spring and summer, the fishermen form themselves into teams. Two wooden boats go several kilometres out to sea early in the morning. A large draw net is dropped into the sea between the two boats and they then head for the shore.

When they reach the shallow water near shore, the trawl warps of the net are handed over to those on the beach. About 20 men on the beach divide into two groups. Each man ties a leather hoop on the trawl warps and starts inching backwards, pulling the net to shore rhythmically and without anyone issuing orders.

It is a splendid sight when the huge net is pulled on to the shore, holding innumerable fish and shrimps. Anyone who fancies seafood can take the opportunity to buy the catch at very reasonable prices.

1. Rich in marine products, East Sea Island provides various kinds of shells which are favoured by tourists (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Besides swimming, one can experience the exciting speed boat in Longhaitian (by Xiao Ji)
3. The 28-km Longhaitian public beach is both a swimmers' paradise and a fishing harbour of local fishermen (by Zhanjiang Tourism Bureau)



Human-Dragon Dance

The famous traditional Human-Dragon Dance on East Sea Island is a spectacular performance staged on important festival days. The so-called "human dragon" is a huge creature with its head, body and tail formed by at least 50~60 people, sometimes as many as 100 people. The head is the most important part of the dragon, where the performers must be strong and skilful because they carry children on their shoulders to form the dragon's tongue, eyes and horns. The body and tail are also formed by men carrying children dressed in dragon robes. To the beat of drums and gongs, the dragon dances, twisting left and right as if it were a single entity.

- To and from Zhanjiang: Planes fly to Zhanjiang from Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou. The air ticket from Hong Kong is HK\$1,380; from Shenzhen, 400 yuan; from Guangzhou, 590 yuan. The 2211 night train from Guangzhou leaves at 9:46 p.m. and reaches Zhanjiang at 8:12 a.m. A hard berth costs HK\$294. The return time and ticket price are about the same. It is advisable to buy the tickets beforehand. For details, visit the website of the Hong Kong China Travel Service at www.chinatravel.com.
- To East Sea Island: The special tourist mini-bus for Longhaitian from Zhanjiang's Dongti Station in Xiashan District takes about an hour. Fare: 8 yuan.
- Lodging: East Sea Hot Spring Hotel **

Add: Taosheng South Road, East Sea Island, Zhanjiang City
Tel: (759) 2921 751 Standard room: 200 yuan.

Guantao Hotel **

Add: Taosheng South Road, East Sea Island, Zhanjiang City
Tel: (759) 2389 000 Standard room: 188 yuan.

- Admission to Longhaitian: 10 yuan

Naozhou Island — Born of Fire

Sometime between 200,000 and 500,000 years ago, an earth-shaking volcanic eruption took place in the sea to the southeast of today's East Sea Island in Zhanjiang. Vast quantities of hot lava and ash spewed from the crater of the volcano. As they were cooled by seawater, a small island of about 56 sq km was miraculously created, which is today's Naozhou Island.

Naozhou Island, Now and Then

Naozhou Island was Xianglong County in ancient times. It was here that Di Bing, the last emperor of the Song Dynasty, mounted the throne in 1278. The Song Emperor's Well and the site of the Xianglong Academy are still there. Another ancient structure is the old lighthouse built by the French. After 100 years of exposure to wind and rain, it still guides ships around it. Today's Naozhou Island is a rich fishing ground on the continental shelf of the South China Sea. One of China's leading fishing ports, it harvests large quantities of abalone, lobster, sea urchin and grouper. Abalone from Naozhou Island used to be given in tribute to the emperor.



Most of the island's population of 40,000 and more are engaged in breeding abalone and lobsters and growing sub-tropical fruits, mainly bananas. Aquacultural ponds and banana groves can be seen everywhere on the island.

A Taste of Fishing Villages

To reach Naozhou Island, one can take a ferry from East Sea Island's southeast jetty for about 15 minutes.

Once on the island, one first sees Bianfang Street, leading from the jetty. With people and goods moving on and off the island, it is Naozhou's busiest street. Here one can find small workshops for repairing boat motors, fruit shops, stores selling daily necessities, eating places, small supermarkets and even Internet bars. The buildings along the street are all several storeys high. On the seaside

to the north of the jetty several brand-new western-style villas catch the eye. With the export trade in expensive seafood flourishing in recent years, many people have become very rich. Nearby are many seafood stalls. When night approaches, the waiters lay tables on the seafront to attract customers. People who want to try Naozhou's famous seafood should not miss it.

But to see the authentic Naozhou lifestyle, one must leave the streets and follow a path to the interior of the island. The modern cement buildings gradually give way to more basic village houses, strangely shaped because they are built with large volcanic rocks. The paths are muddy and narrow. The crowing of cocks and barking of dogs echo now and then. The villages are a world away from the area around the jetty.

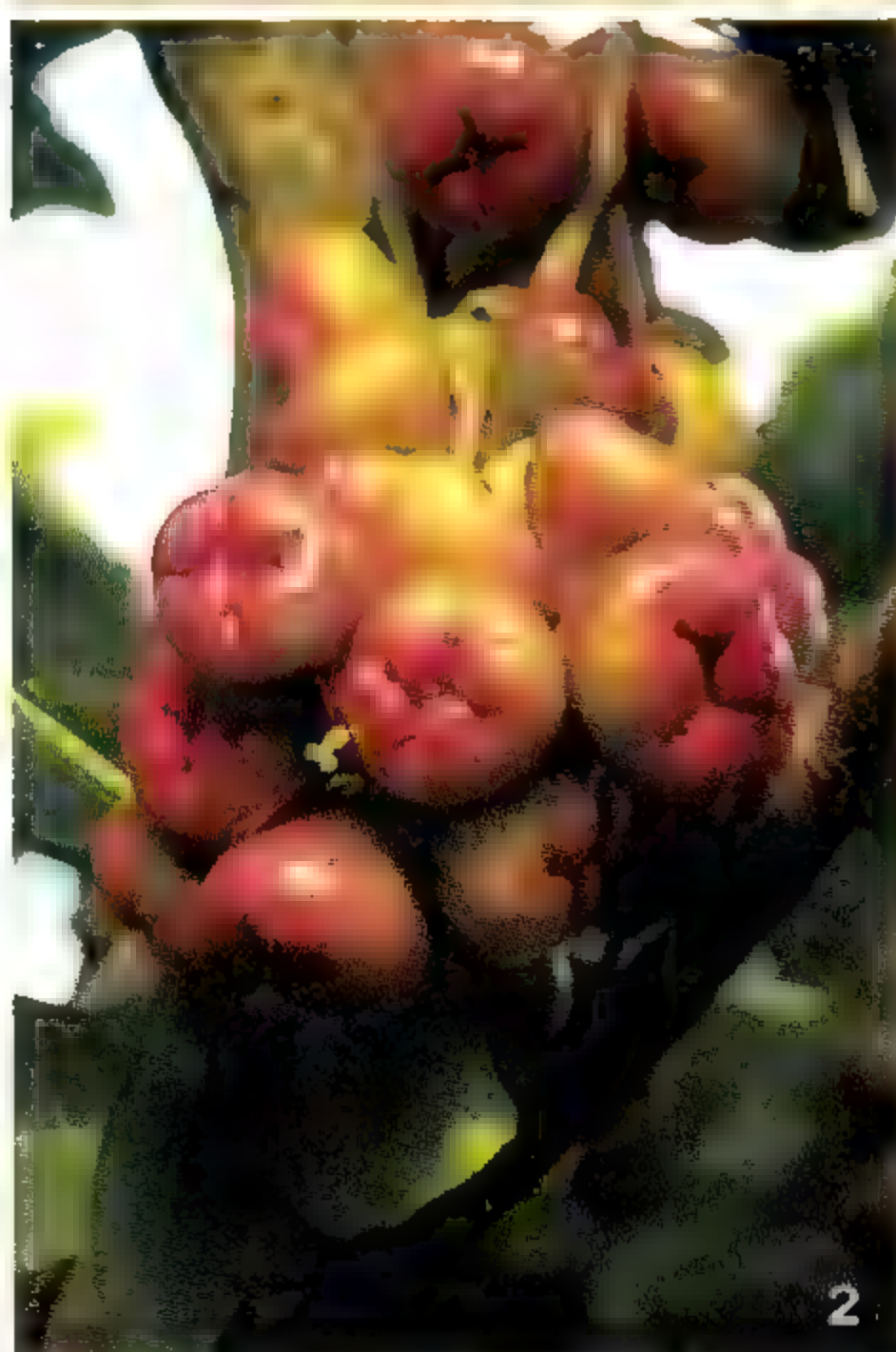
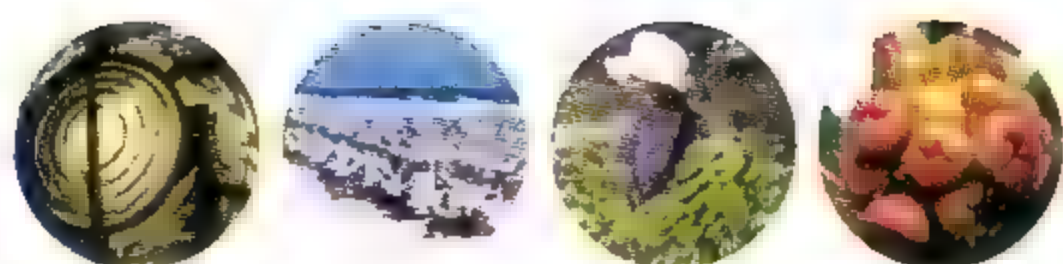


A Very Rare Lighthouse

The Naozhou lighthouse tops the 81.6-metre Ma'an (Saddle) Hill. A stone pagoda used to stand there until the French forcibly turned the Guangzhou Bay into a leased territory. For military and economic purposes, they pulled down the stone pagoda and built the lighthouse, completed in two years and two months. The lighthouse has become famous because it is one of only two in the world with a crystal lantern. The light refracted through the prisms is visible 26 nautical miles away. This 23-metre high lighthouse is built with large blocks of granite. There is no mortar between the granite blocks, which are laid one upon another in a plain unadorned style. A spiral staircase leads to the lantern chamber; when leaving it one should stop at the observation platform for a beautiful sea view.

1. The ancient Naozhou lighthouse has witnessed Zhanjiang's history of being occupied by France (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. The sub-tropical climate of Naozhou Island provides ideal environment for growing bananas (by Shi Baoxiu)
3. The houses built by volcanic rocks form a unique sight in Naozhou Island (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. The 160 curved crystal prism in the lighthouse is one of the only two in the world (by Shi Baoxiu)
5. Everywhere on Naozhou Island reveals the taste of a fishing village (by Shi Baoxiu)
6. Unlike ordinary rocky beaches, the Nayanhai Rocky Beach is covered with a large expanse of round black volcanic rocks





2



3



4



The Fantastic Beach of Volcanic Rocks

If spectacular sights appeal, go to Nanyanhai Rocky Beach, nine kilometres from the town of Danshui in the eastern part of the island. Unlike ordinary rocky beaches, the seashore here is covered with a large expanse of round black volcanic rocks. When big waves surge upon them, the white foam and the black rocks form a vivid contrast.

- To Raozhou Island: Bus from Longhaitian to the town of Dongzha on the island, where a mini-bus from the Dongti Station at Xiashan goes to the Southeast Jetty (4 yuan, 15 minutes). One can also hire a motor-tricycle to get there. Fare should be negotiated. From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., there are several regular ferries running between the jetty and Raozhou Island (6 yuan, 15 minutes).
- Transport on the island: The most popular means of transport is the motor-tricycle, for which one should bargain for the hiring price. It costs 15~20 yuan to

go to the lighthouse or Nanyanhai Rocky Beach. A tour around the island takes at least half a day.

- **Lodging:** A single day is enough to tour the island. There is no need to stay for the night. If one has plenty of time on hand and wishes to explore the island more thoroughly, one can stay at the Yongle Hotel at 34 Bianfang Street, where a double room with air-conditioning, television and hot bath costs 65 yuan.
- **Admissions:** The Raozhou Lighthouse, 6 yuan; Nayan Rocky Beach, 2 yuan. (Attention: To get into the lighthouse, visitors must be accompanied by a keeper. If the visitors are too few in number, admission may be refused so be prepared for this. Taking the development of tourism and the interests of the tourists into consideration, this author thinks that the authorities concerned should improve this situation immediately).

Tianchengtai Holiday Village

When I first arrived at the Tianchengtai Holiday Village in Leizhou, I was deeply impressed by its perfect natural surroundings. The holiday village built on Beiquan Beach in Leizhou's Wushi Township is shaded by green trees and filled everywhere with the fragrance of flowers. To its east is Wushi Fishing Port with its rich local colour. In the holiday village, visitors can fully enjoy the scenery of the fishing port in perfect quietude. On the western side is the large expanse of water of Beibu Bay. A long stretch of white sandy beach provides visitors with the best place for a rest.

A Miracle on a Sandy Beach

Before 1997, the area where the holiday village now stands was an expanse of sand without a single inhabitant. Only children



from the neighbouring Wushi Township came here to fight mock battles. However Li Chunqiang, a young businessman in Wushi Township, saw the potential in this stretch of wilderness. After weighing all the possibilities, he decided to invest and give it a try. The first man he consulted was Manager Lin who is highly experienced in agriculture and forestry. At his suggestion and with his help, Li had the

fertile red soil from Leizhou Peninsula brought here and mixed with the infertile sand. He then planted trees and flowers and built an orchard and a group of villa-like holiday houses. In the space of two years, a holiday village like a tropical garden miraculously sprang into existence on the sandy expanse. Taking a walk in the holiday village today, no one could imagine the desolation of the place in the past. This example shows that with insight and hard work, man certainly can transform nature and successfully create new opportunities. It may also serve as an inspiration for people who cannot make up their minds and are overcome with life's worries.

Enjoying Nature

Today, the Tianchengtai Holiday Village covers 132 sq km and is surrounded by sea on three sides. Everything here is made as simple and natural as possible. There are wooden chairs, bamboo pavilions and orchards where one can pick seasonal fruit merely by reaching out. The seafood brought back from Beibu Bay is perfectly fresh, because it has not gone through cleaning, packing and freezing processes. Cultivated meticulously by Manager Lin and employees, a wide variety of fruit trees now grow in the holiday village, such as lianwu from Hainan, kiwifruit from Thailand, mangoes of different colours and sizes, and longan. Even thyme, growing in abundance in Taiwan, has been introduced here. With permission, visitors can go freely into the orchards and pick and sample the fresh fruit, all tasting so very different from those sold in the market. The holiday village can arrange a trip on the sea in a fishing boat. Upon request, visitors can also try fishing and a fisherman's meal. When the sun is setting, it is highly romantic to take a walk on the broad and smooth Silvery Beach on the western side or frolic in the sea while watching the homeward-bound fishing boats in Beibu Bay.

It is preferable to stay for a night at the holiday village, so not only can you enjoy a starry night by the sea but also wake up to the chirping of birds in the early morning. If one is pressed for time, the holiday village is open for a day-tour at five yuan a ticket.

- **To Tianchengtai Holiday Village:** A direct express bus goes from Zhanjiang's Xiashan General Bus Station to Leizhou (14 yuan, about 1 hour), where one can change to a mini-bus going to Wushi Township (about 2 hours). At the Wushi Bus Station, a pedicab takes one to the jetty (2 yuan), where a ferry boat goes to Tianchengtai (1 to 2 yuan).
- **Lodging at the holiday village:** Standard room (198 yuan), standard room in a villa (248 yuan), luxury villa (888 yuan). It is advisable to make a reservation by telephone: (759) 8630 288.
- **Admission:** Day ticket (5 yuan), night ticket (3 yuan).

1. Previously a piece of empty sandy land, the Tianchengtai Holiday Village was erected by the perseverance of the village owner (by Xiao Ji)
3. The exotic holiday village provides hot springs to guests (by Xiao Ji)
- 2.5.6. Various sub-tropical fruits make your mouth water (such as wax apples and mangoes) (by Xiao Ji)
4. Different sub-tropical plants can be seen everywhere in the Tianchengtai Holiday Village (by Xiao Ji)

Eastern Guangdong:

Heritage and Nature Tours in Heyuan



Photos & article by Hailan

The name Heyuan may as yet be unfamiliar to many tourists, but that could soon change. Lots of places there, still unknown yet well-preserved, such as the Hakka walled village, Dinosaur Museum, "Danxia topography" and unspoiled ancient town, and more, are all waiting for you to discover them.



河源
Heyuan

龍川
Longchuan

惠州
Huizhou

深圳
Shenzhen

Hakka Traditions in Sujiawei

Living Place of Su Dongpo's Descendents

The picturesque Sujiawei Hakka Village Tourist area is located in Suwei Village in Yihe Town, 23 km from Heyuan City, Dongyuan County, where the Dongjiang and Jiushe Rivers meet. There are tour buses going to Sujiawei every 30 minutes from the Heyuan City Terminus. Fare: 5 yuan. Time: 30 minutes.



As soon as I arrived at the Sujiawei walled village (Admission: 15 yuan), I felt I had known the place for years. Featuring both outstanding natural and cultural landscapes it reminded me of the impressive ancient towns in Anhui Province that have been listed as World Heritage Site. And when will the Hakka village standing before me become equally famous?

According to research, thousand-year-old Sujiawei is where the descendents of Su Dongpo (1037—1101), a famous poet in the Song Dynasty, once lived. Legend has it that Su Tianrong, the seventh descendent of Su Dongpo, passed Heyuan one day. He dreamed that

Itineraries

Day 1 Morning: Heyuan → Dongyuan County → Sujiawei and back
Afternoon: Visit Heyuan City Museum/ Guifeng Pagoda
Evening: Heyuan → Guangzhou/ Shenzhen → Hong Kong/ or stay one
More night in Heyuan city

Day 2 Morning: Tour to Wanlu Lake (lunch in scenic area)
Afternoon: View dinosaur fossils in Heyuan City Museum/ Guifeng Pagoda
Evening: Heyuan → Guangzhou/ Shenzhen → Hong Kong/ or stay one
More night in Heyuan city

an old man showed him around Heyuan, pointing out a huge tree called "Zisu". Later Tianrong asked his descendents to live in Heyuan. Su Xiuhong, the great-great-grandson of Tianrong named his family "Su Wei" when he brought them to live in Heshui in 1382. Dating back 800 years, Sujiawei walled village boasts the most inscribed boards of the Su family in Guangdong Province. There are 63 inscribed boards of official titles and educational achievements. In one year alone the Su family had 12 successful candidates.

Witness to Village History

Sujiawei is a new arrival on the tourist scene, the village isn't even marked on the map. However, it offers something different from more touristy places. Despite a few man-made facilities like ticket-selling machines and tourist paths, most heritage sites remain in their natural state.

The most remarkable must be those original historical slogans

painted on the walls outside every household, dating from the 1950s. They all tell the stories of those years, such as "Resist U.S. and aid Korea so as to defend our own country and families", "Long live Chairman Mao Zedong" and so on. These slogans vividly reflect the ups and downs of China's villages in the last 50 years. Of course, these red slogans may have inspired fashion design for the younger generation.

1. The "Village Gender Culture Exhibition" is held in a village house in Heyuan
2. A Hakka girl in traditional dress (by Heyuan Tourism Bureau)
3. Hakka people usually build their houses near the mountain. This indicates they can live and flourish even in a harsh environment (by Heyuan Tourism Bureau)





After a few turns, we came to a guestroom where a comedy play about a Hakka wedding was to be staged. The show invited audience participation, so that people can learn about Hakka wedding customs through the games. It was a really entertaining performance for both adults and children.

Apart from the wedding show, tourists can also visit the Su Family Ancestral Hall, Four Seasons Village Path, and Four Seasons Farming Corridor; or stroll along the riverside path and admire the historic old banyan and bamboo trees. One also has a fine time watching the sunset while enjoying a typical delicious Hakka feast in a village restaurant.

• Inquiry no. of Sujiawei Walled Village Tourist Area: (762) 8882 969



2

Following our tour guide we entered the village. On the way, we saw villagers cooling off outside their homes, farmers working in the fields, or children chasing chickens and ducks. No one paid too much attention to us tourists but continued their normal activities. A few lanes further on we reached the courtyard of a residence, now turned into a simple gallery, where the "Village Gender Culture Exhibition" was being held. From the photos and props, we learnt about the Hakka people's customs and attitudes towards the opposite sex.



Wanlu Lake Scenic Area

Mountains and Water All in One

Wanlu Lake Scenic Area lies six kilometres from Heyuan in Dongyuan County. Take a bus going to Xingang and get off at the Wanluhu station. Fare: 2 yuan. Time: 10 minutes.

My eyes brightened as soon as I arrived at Wanluhu (Ten-thousand Green Lake). The entrance area covering 133 hectares was built according to the description of *Jing Hua Yuan* (*Flowers in the Mirror*), a fictional work by Qing Dynasty writer Li Ruzhen (1763—1830). The land is also rich in flora and fauna.

Visitors can ride the tourist trolley from the entrance of the scenic area. However, the mountain top, offering a 360-degree panorama, is the best vantage point to appreciate the lake. The trail going up the hill is not arduous, and a lookout terrace is set in every section. Although you will be captivated by what you see from the first terrace, the views get better the higher you climb. In the sunlight, every shade of green appears in the lake waters studded with over 360 islets, creating a wonderful sight. Covering 370 sq km and with a depth of 40 metres, Wanluhu is the largest artificial lake in South China. The unpolluted water can be drunk untreated.

After descending the mountain, tourists can take a cruise around the islets and lake, visit the statue of the Goddess of Mercy on the Jinghua Ridge, or enjoy activities in Shuiyue (Water and Moon) Bay.

• Inquiry no. of Wanlu Lake Scenic Area: (762) 8780 085

Snapshots of Hakka Culture

- Hakka households strictly follow tradition in maintaining an extended family. Several generations of the same surname live together. Their houses are usually built of earth, wood or bricks and are in the shape of a cross.
- The architectural style of Sujiawei walled village houses is called "Shangsan Xiasan" (three rooms up and three rooms down). In front of the main door of the house stands a north-facing stone gate carved with the symbols for Heaven and Earth derived from the Book of Changes. It reveals the Hakka emphasis on balance between the two sexes.
- Hakka people put great emphasis on gender differences; males always take precedence over females. The virginity of an unmarried woman is of high importance. When drying clothes, those of males have to be placed above those of females.
- The traditional tea of Hakka people is made of tea leaves, sesame and peanuts. Legend says it originated from the "Sanyou (Three Friends) Soup" during the Three Kingdoms Period (220—280).



1. The giant water mill is now a scenic spot (by Heyuan Tourism Bureau)
2. Villagers live a simple life in the countryside (by Heyuan Tourism Bureau)
3. The Ancestral Hall of Lord Su illustrates Hakka people's respect for their ancestors
4. A comedy performance presents Hakka wedding customs
5. Lake Wanlu, the largest artificial lake in South China, is as big as 68 West Lake in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province





and dinosaur bones dating from 65 million years ago, as well as fossils of marine molluscs and ammonites dating back 180 million years ago.

In March 1996, a few primary school students accidentally discovered the first group of dinosaur egg fossils on the East River bank. Later the authorities dug out nearly 200 clusters containing almost 3,000 fossilised dinosaur eggs. Nowadays, Heyuan still tops similar places worldwide in terms of the quantity, species and ongoing care of dinosaur egg fossils. In July 1999, a wealth of dinosaur bone fossils was excavated in the northern suburban areas. As a result experts dub Heyuan "South China's dinosaur hometown".

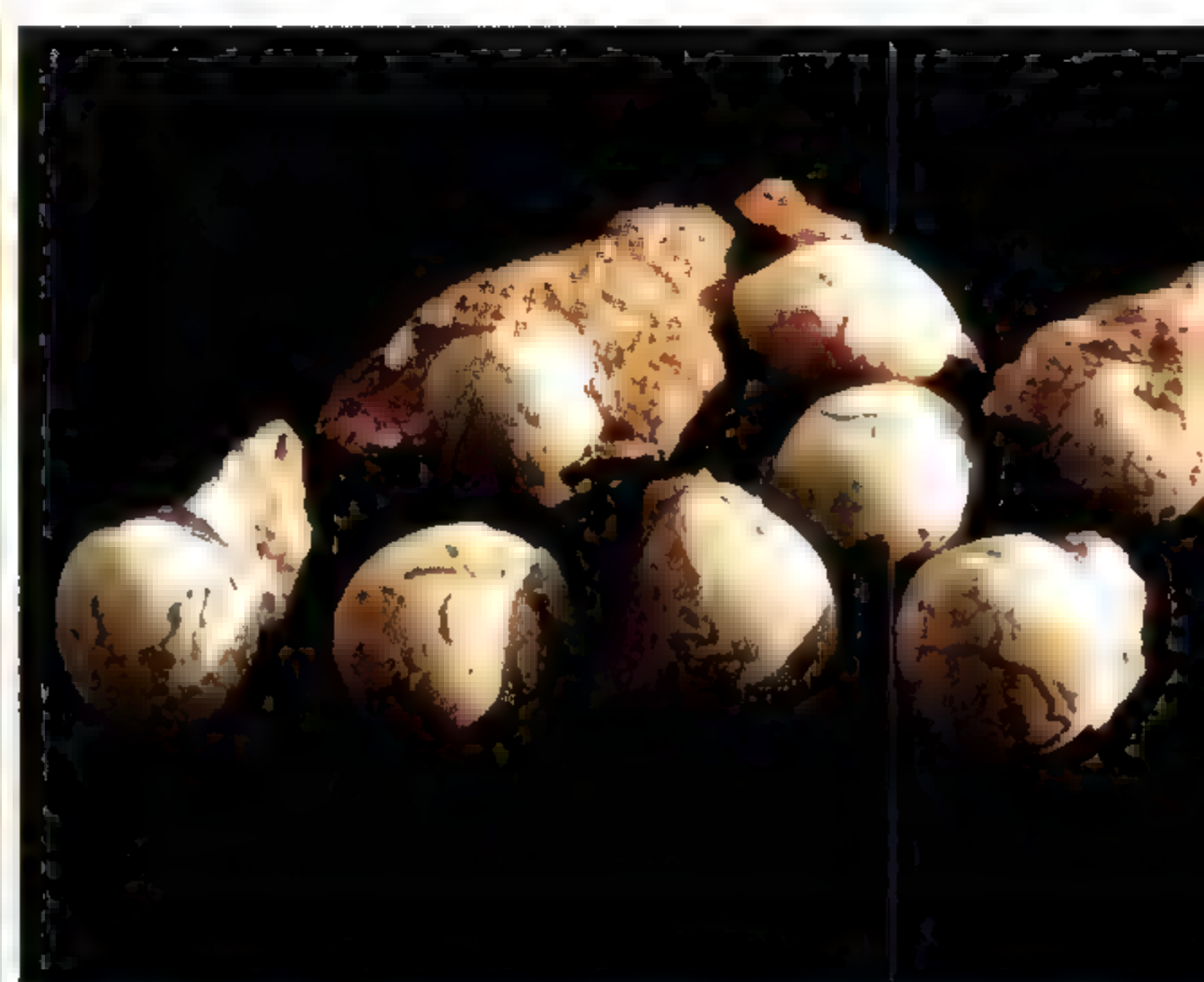
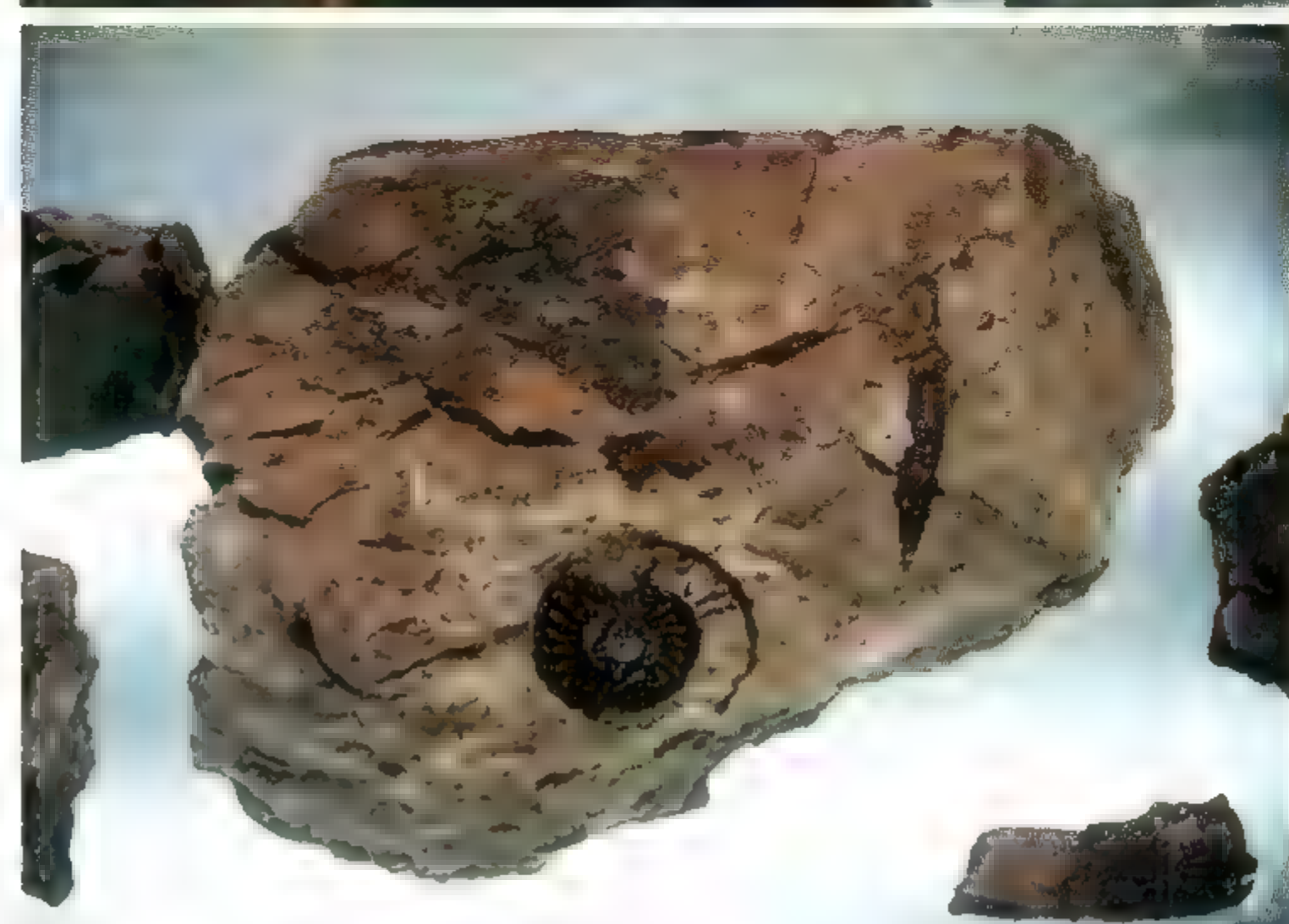
Leaving the museum and climbing Guifeng Hill brings you to the Guifeng Pagoda. Built in 1132 during the Southern Song Dynasty, this Buddhist building is Guangdong's only brick pagoda with a recorded year of construction. From outside it seems the pagoda has seven storeys. In fact, there are 14 storeys inside featuring lots of exquisite carvings.

• Inquiry no. of Heyuan City Museum: (762) 3333 596

Ancient City of Longchuan

Mt. Huoshan—Another Danxia Wonder

Longchuan, a city 111 km from Heyuan, can be reached by bus from the Heyuan Bus Terminus. Fare: 25 yuan. Time: about 2 hours. Though not fully developed as a scenic area, its freshness should appeal to tourists sated with top spots. Of course, they should be aware tourist facilities are not well established.



Heyuan City Museum

Hometown for Dinosaurs in South China

The Heyuan City Museum stands at the foot of the Guifeng (Tortoise Peak) Hill beside the Dast River in the old part of town in Heyuan. It can be reached by taking bus No. 10. Fare: 1 yuan. Time: 20 minutes. To my surprise, the small museum (Admission: 10 yuan) features many precious exhibits. There are fossils of dinosaur eggs

I would like to suggest tourists first visit a natural wonder — Mt. Huoshan (Admission: 30 yuan). The mountain can be reached by catching a special route bus in Longchuan county seat, taking about 50 minutes. Standing magnificently amid a vast sea of green, the 48 famous peaks of the mountain range resemble strange shapes. Narrow tortuous passages wind between the steep rocks. It requires much energy and a strong will to reach the mountain top. However, don't be surprised if you see village children quickly climbing the

mountain while carrying heavy loads. Song poet Su Dongpo was one of those deeply moved by the scenery of Mt. Huoshan, and wrote a poem celebrating its beauty.

I was informed by an attendant at the entrance that many climbing enthusiasts from Hong Kong have been lured here then left well satisfied.

• Inquiry no. of Mt. Huoshan Scenic Area: (762) 6481 602

Ancient City of Zhaotuo

The earliest county set up in the Lingnan area, Tuocheng is a city with a 2,213-year-old history.

The ancient city of Zhaotuo near the Longchuan county seat can be reached by taxi. Having experienced thousands of years of change, the city inevitably appears somewhat timeworn. Baixing Street, where numerous typically Lingnan-style buildings from the 1950~60s are found, is the most representative. And never hurry when walking down the old streets and lanes, or you might miss the Temple of Zhao and other heritage sites. Meanwhile, the carvings at the 334-year-old Confucius Temple beside a primary school are well worth inspection. And a classical theatre brings history to life.

1. The hexagonal Guifeng Pagoda built in the Song Dynasty. It has seven storeys outside, but there are 14 inside (by Heyuan Tourism Bureau)
- 2-4. The greatest number of dinosaur egg fossils in the world have been found in Heyuan. Rare fossils of dinosaur eggs and bones and marine molluscs are displayed in Heyuan City Museum (pic.4 by Heyuan Tourism Bureau)
5. Mt. Huoshan is famous for its rocky crags (by Heyuan Tourism Bureau)

Travel Tips

Transport

- Hong Kong Yuegang Vehicle-Tel: (852) 2317 7900 → Heyuan, daily service
Fare: HK\$160. Time: 4 hrs
- Shenzhen Yinhu Terminus/ Donghu Terminus → Heyuan, every 40 mins.
Fare: 50 yuan. Time: 2 hrs 50 mins.
- Guangzhou Tianhe Passenger Transport Station → Heyuan, every 40 mins.
Fare: 50 yuan. Time: 3 hrs 15 mins.

* Trains also go to Heyuan from Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

Website of Heyuan City Tourism Bureau: <http://www.djmzh.com>

Accommodation

- Heyuan: New World Hotel **** Tel: (762) 3399 9888
Add: 8~21 Mid-Section of Changtang Rd, Heyuan
- Hongqiao Hotel *** Tel: (762) 3366 888
Add: Intersection between Heyuan Boulevard and Jianshe Boulevard
- Wanlu Hotel ** Tel: (762) 3393 339 Add: 2 Xingyuan Rd, New District
- Longchuan: Songlin Hotel ** Tel: (762) 675 2231
Add: 18 Zhongshan Rd E, Laolong, Longchuan

* Prices for std room stand from 100 yuan

Travel Agencies

- Heyuan City Travel General Co.
Add: Xinfeng Rd, New Dist. Tel: (762) 3330 346
- Dongyuan County Wanluhu Travel Service
Add: 1 2nd Bldg, Jinjiang Garden, Baoyuan Rd Tel: (762) 3311 778
- Longchuan County Travel General Co.
Add: 16 No. 2 Hebian Rd, Laolong Town, Longchuan County Tel: (762) 6886 639
- Inquiry no. of Heyuan City Tourism Bureau (762) 3342 757

Special Cuisine

Dongjiang salted chicken, Dongjiang stewed bean curd, and Chinese perch.
(Authentic Hakka dishes can be savoured in the Hubin Food Street, New Harbour Hakka Restaurant, or all foreign hotels in the city)





Guangdong:

Hot Spring Highlights



Photos by Chan Yat Nin Article by Jackie & Xiao Ji

Guangdong abounds in hot springs, they are spread all over the province, a major tourist drawcard along with its superb natural scenery and rich cultural and historical heritage. Guangdong was the first province in China to modernise its hot springs to meet the needs of present-day clientele and first in management and resource development. The hot springs in the Pearl River Delta are the best and most vigorously developed of all.



Jinjiang Hot Spring

Enping City on the shore of the South China Sea in the southwestern part of Guangdong is a well known "home of overseas Chinese". For its numerous hot springs, it is also known as "hot springs region". Four of the hot springs there are of the highest standard in Guangdong Province.

Jinjiang Hot Spring, 22 km from Enping, has become a tourist hotspot, luring visitors with the assertion it is "China's first large hot spring holiday resort for surfing and soaking". Breaking away from traditional hot spring bathing, it boldly combines it with a variety of water-based activities giving visitors a completely new experience.

A rafting river with a regulated water flow and a large surfing pool share space in the open-air hot spring area in front of a hill. The complex has more than 50 other pools of different shapes and

purposes, including a massage pool, lovers' pool, children's pool and a pool containing traditional Chinese. Visitors can bathe in the hot springs and safely enjoy surfing and rafting, improving their health while having fun.

The transparently clear spring water rich in lithium and meta-silicic acid is good for high blood pressure and rheumatic arthritis. Even for someone in perfect health, it can still relax the muscles and tendons and promote blood circulation. The hot spring here has a generous flow but so far only half has been put to use and there are plans to develop the site into a pleasure park on water. It is an ideal place for a weekend holiday as it is equipped with a wide range of facilities. From here day-trippers can also visit the Yunli Stone Village, six kilometres above the spring; the famous Jinjiang Reservoir Scenic Area, 10 km away, and the Seven-Star Virgin Forest Exploration Area.

- Add: Langdi Township, Datian Town, Enping City, Guangdong Province
- Tel: (750) 7333 333 Fax: (750) 7333 222
- Admission: 68 yuan; twin-bedroom: 580 yuan (including ticket to hot spring)
- Opening hours: 09:30~02:00

1. The Jinjiang Hot Spring is surrounded by exquisite environment
2. Professional masseurs and masseuses relieve the visitors of their fatigue
3. The hot spring combines recreations on water with bathing





Jinshan Hot Spring Water Excels

Another popular bathing spot is the Jinshan Hot Spring Holiday Village in Naji Town. This hot spring was the first to be developed in Enping. The natural hot springs here have more than 300 open-air discharge points with water reaching more than 80°C all the year round. Studies by experts show that the Jinshan hot springs are among the best in the whole country for the quality and temperature of the water and the volume of flow. The hot spring water here contains 48 kinds of trace elements all good for the human body. It is bettered only by a hot spring in Peru, South America. For this reason, the Jinshan Hot Spring is known as "the World's Second Best Hot Spring". Its trace elements, such as meta-silicic acid, chlorine, sulphur and lithium, are good for promoting blood circulation and relieving fatigue and highly effective for patients suffering from rheumatism and cardiovascular disease.

For visitors wanting different activities, the Hot Spring Pleasure Park offers a golf course, fireworks area, children's water-based amusement park, sports field and an archery range.

- Add: Naji Town, Enping City, Guangdong Province
- Tel: (750) 7281 188 Fax: (750) 7281 222
- Guangzhou Office: 7/F, Jiangwan Hotel, 298 Yuanjiang Road, Guangzhou
- Tel: (20) 8382 2986 Fax: (20) 8381 1608
- Website: www.jinshanhotspring.com E-mail: jinshan@pub.jiangmen.gd.cn
- Opening hours: 06:00~01:00

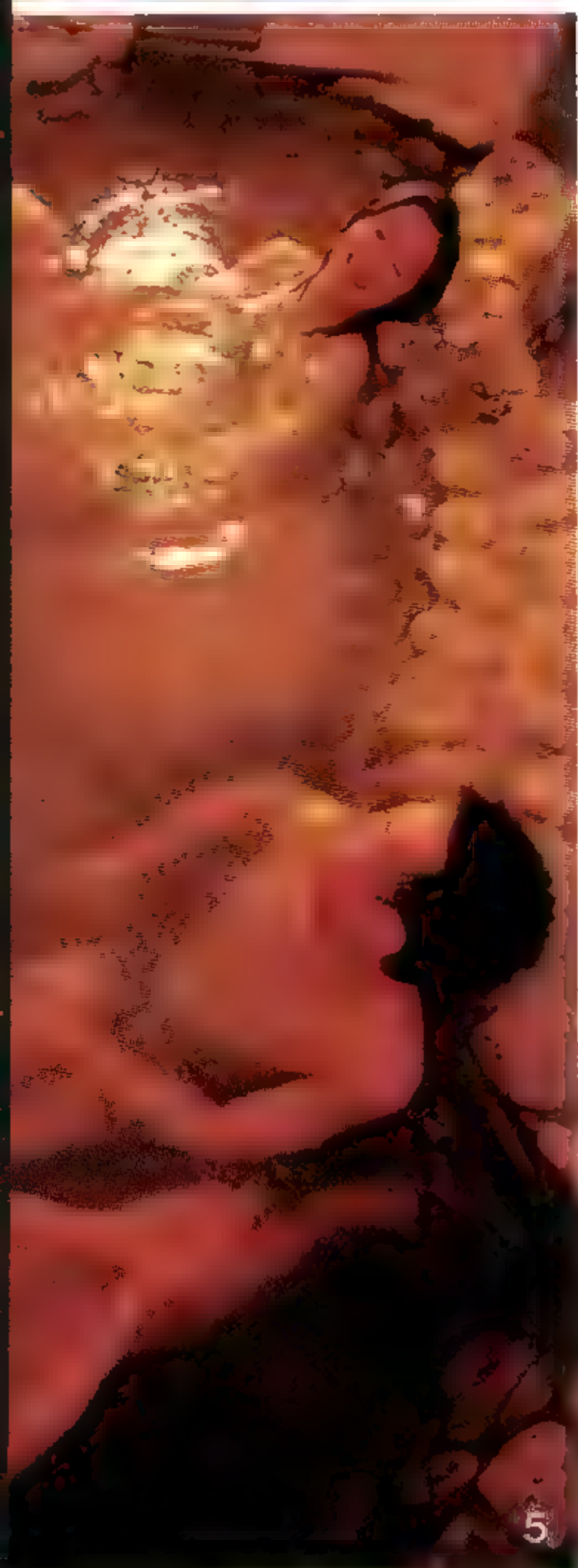


- Admission: Hot Spring, 80 yuan; twin-bedroom, 580 yuan. A 30% discount during weekends; 60% discount in weekdays. Half concession for guests of the holiday village

Chinese Culture at Didu Hot Spring

The Didu Hot Spring injects Chinese culture into a hot spring holiday resort. In an area surrounded by green mountains in Liangxi Town, bathers can immerse themselves in nature. The 69 open-air pools' design incorporates Chinese landscapes and local culture.

Good quality water flows from the Didu Hot Spring, and lots of it, as much as 4,100 cubic metres a day at a temperature of 73°C. The water has curative properties, containing more than 20 trace elements that are good for health. To control water temperature, the Didu Hot Spring is



designed according to the traditional Chinese medical theory of *yin* and *yang* (two opposing principles in nature. *Yin* refers feminine/negative; *yang* refers masculine/positive), so tourists can improve their health while having a good time in the hot spring pools.

- Add: Liangxi Town, Enping City, Guangdong Province
- Tel: (750) 7396 188 Fax: (750) 7396 178
- Opening hours: 07:00~02:00
- Admission: Hot springs: 60 yuan; twin-bedroom: 500 yuan. There is a 20% discount on Friday and Saturday, and 40% discount from Sunday to Thursday
- Website: www.diduhotspring.com
- E-mail: didu@diduhotspring.com

Qingxin Mineral Hot Spring

This large open-air hot spring with Oriental-style buildings in Sankeng Town, Qingxin

County, Qingyuan City, is also called the Mid-River Spring because it wells up from the bottom of a river. There are more than 50 Japanese-style mid-river hot spring pools of different sizes and styles, including the Wine, Bamboo, Wood, Stone and Waterfall Springs. The pools, lined with pebbles, are located according to the terrain amid pavilions and other buildings, conveying a classical and romantic mood. This high-temperature spring water does not contain sulphur but has calcium sulphate with strontium and meta-silicic acid. There is a great range in temperature to cater for individual needs — from 20~70°C. The Beach Hot Spring here is a pool 25 metres long and 12 metres wide, big enough for people to swim in.

After soaking sedately in the hot spring, visitors can opt for some excitement on the grass-sliding ground, 300 metres long and covering

30,000 square metres. Under the guidance of an instructor, they can experience “flying over grass”. Plant lovers can visit the Bamboo and Rose Garden where many species of bamboo flourish interspersed with roses and azaleas, and the Fruit and Gourd Garden.

The Silver Spring, Famous Spring and Jade Spring Hotels and the Guangdong International Sports Youth Hotel at the holiday resort offer a wide range of accommodation, such as rooms equipped with Japanese tatami mats or hot spring rooms. Hot spring water flows directly into all the rooms, so visitors can bathe in hot spring water without leaving their rooms.

- Add: Sankeng Township, Qingyuan City, Guangdong Province
- Tel: (763) 5862 622 Fax: (763) 5862 706
- Opening hours: 09:00~24:00 (hot spring); 08:30~17:30 (Bamboo and Rose Garden); 08:30~17:30 hours (Grass-Sliding Ground)
- Admissions: Tickets to the hot spring, 90 yuan; Bamboo and Rose Garden, 20 yuan; Grass-Sliding Field, 60 yuan/hour

Tanghu Resort for Hot Mud Therapy

The Tanghu Hot Mud Spring in Weilong Village, Zhuanshui Town, Wuhua County, Meizhou City, is one of only two high-temperature hot mud springs in China. The only other one is the Tanggangzi Hot Spring at Anshan, Liaoning Province. The mud here contains more than 60 trace elements and minerals such as lithium, zinc and strontium, which have good curative and health protection effects. Its radioactive elements improve the vitality of the cells and muscles and the body as a whole.

The hot spring water spouting from 2,600 metres below the earth's crust reaches temperatures as high as 83~100°C. Constantly washed by the hot water, the dark sludge cleans and regenerates itself and is highly effective as a cure.

Slipping into the soft and slimy hot sludge, you float effortlessly and feel totally relaxed. After soaking in the mud, clean yourself in spring water and then bathe in a pool of hot spring water or swim in a hot spring swimming pool.

- Add: Weilong Village, Zhuangshui Town, Wuhua County, Meizhou City, Guangdong Province
- Tel: (753) 4877 267
- Admission: Hot spring, 98 yuan; lodging, 280~1,338 yuan. Hotel guests can purchase tickets to hot springs at half concession
- Opening hours: 10:00~24:00

1. Jinshan Hot Spring is the first open-air hot spring with Japanese style in Enping (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. Hot mineral mud therapy at Tanghu Hot Mud Resort in Wuhua is said to be good for one's health (by Meizhou Tourism Bureau)
3. Didu Hot Spring has based its design on landscape and local cultures in China (by Enping City Tourism Bureau)
4. Qingxin Mineral Hot Spring is built in the style of Oriental landscape gardening (by Xie Guanghui)
5. The use of cobblestones creates an antique atmosphere in the indoor hot spring (by Xie Guanghui)



Zhongshan Immortals Bathing Resort

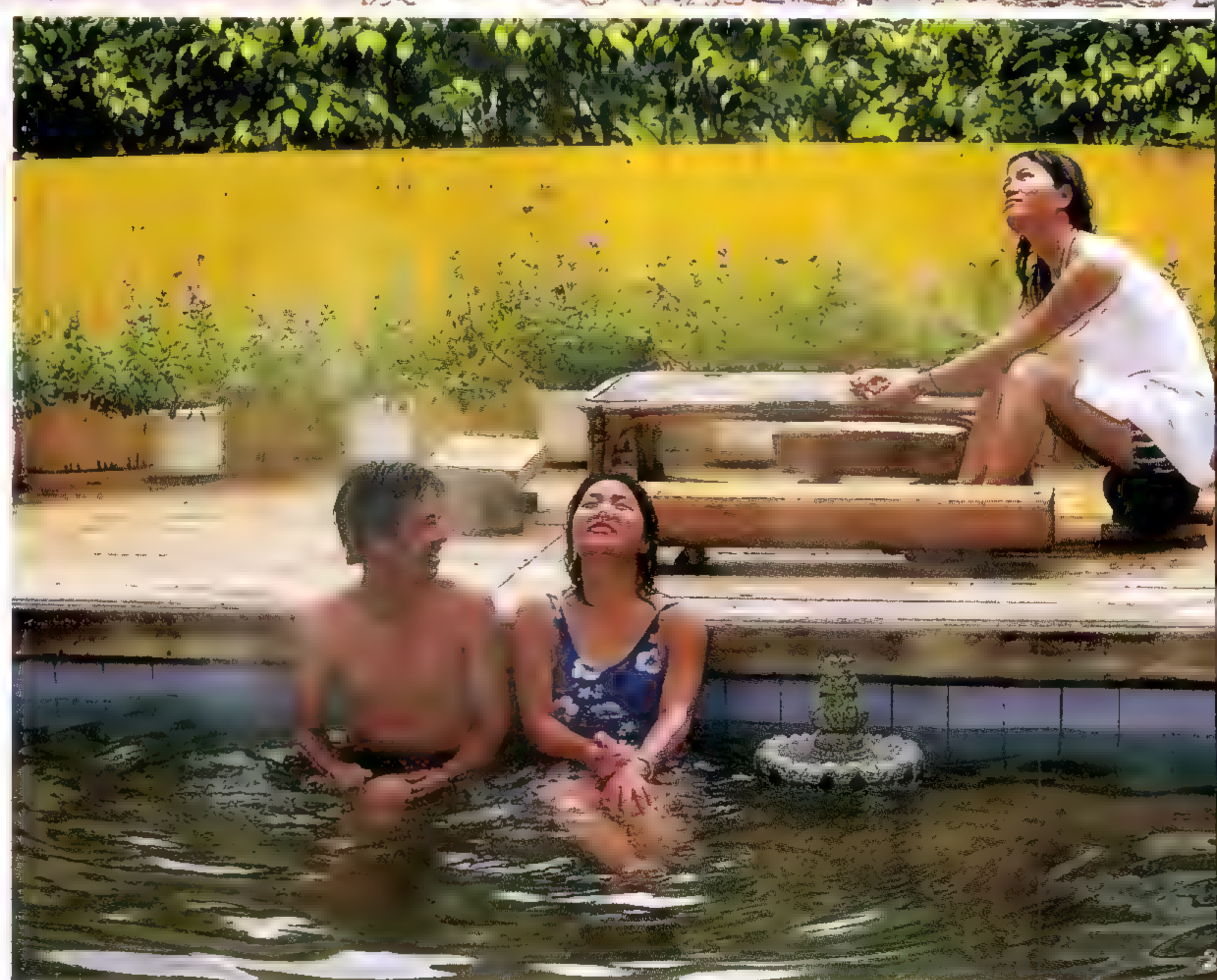
The Immortals Bathing Resort (Xianmuyuan) in Zhongshan, the hometown of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, was rebuilt from the famous Zhongshan Hot Spring into an all-new open-air resort at a cost of 30 million yuan. It enjoys the same popularity as it did in the old days.

The Immortals Bathing Resort, occupying 4.4 hectares of land and with 38 different types of hot spring pools, allows 2,000 people to bathe at the same time. Water from this sodium chloride hot spring is 93°C at the discharge point and contains chloride, sodium, calcium and manganese, which have positive effects in revitalising bodily functions and improving blood circulation and metabolism.

Women favour the fragrant island of mineral sand at the resort where a unique treatment is offered. Hot spring water is mixed with a fragrant oil in the sand. There are two therapies; in one you are buried in the fragrant sand and in the other the soles of the feet are massaged in the sand. The former helps expel toxicants from the body and absorb the sand's useful mineral elements, and is a good cosmetic treatment, refresher and muscle relaxant. The latter makes use of the minerals in the sand to massage the soles, helping circulation of blood and improving the health of the brain and nervous system.

You can take your pick from the massage, aloe, lemon, papaya, peppermint, flagstone, glossy privet, milk, coffee and flower and grass pools, enough to arouse the envy even of immortal beings. The resort takes great care to keep the pools clean. Circulating spring water flows constantly in and out of the pools. At 2:00 a.m. every day, they are cleaned and disinfected to ensure hygiene.

After bathing, massage masters from Yangzhou, Jiangsu



Province, will massage your feet and give you a pedicure. You will surely feel like one of the gods.

- Address: Zhongshan Hot Spring, Sanxiang Town, Zhongshan City
- Tel: (760) 6683 888
- Fees (for reference): Bathing in an open-air pool (without time limit and including a sauna and the use of the gymnasium, lounge and soft drinks and cigarettes), 108 yuan; back massage (20 minutes), 38 yuan; foot massage (20 minutes) 38 yuan; head massage (20 minutes) 38 yuan; clearing the ears (15 minutes), 30 yuan; manicure (15 minutes), 30 yuan; pedicure (15 minutes), 30 yuan; soaking the feet (10 minutes) 18 yuan
- Lodging: A standard room at the four-star Zhongshan Hot Spring Hotel, 460 yuan.
- Tel: (760) 6683 888
- Transport: Several regular boats go to the port of Zhongshan from China-Hong Kong Pier and the Hong Kong-Macao Pier in Hong Kong. It takes 1 hour and 20 minutes. Ticket: HK\$201



Conghua Hot Spring

The long-famous Conghua Hot Spring is the oldest of its kind in Guangdong, and the name of "Conghua" has almost become a synonymous for hot springs in the province. After more than half a century of vicissitudes since the 1930s, it has inevitably become old fashioned. Despite the emergence of so many modern hot spring resorts, it still enjoys a well-established popularity because of its beautiful surroundings of green mountains and clear water and visits by celebrities. The Conghua Hot Spring was already a famous tourist resort during the Ming and Qing dynasties. But it was not properly developed until a man with exceptional foresight chanced upon it. That man was Liu Peiquan, at the time a member of the standing council of the China Southwest Airlines.

In 1933, while he was flying a plane, he spied from the air. To his

great surprise, he saw a hot spring waterfall. He immediately invited his good friends Chen Danian, a lawyer, and Liang Peiji, a doctor, to go with him to check out the site. When they saw the beautiful scenery, fresh air, mountains and rivers, waterfall and hot spring, they decided it was a good place to develop. Together with Li Wuzi, the head of the then Conghua County, they pooled their funds and built the Yuhuxi Hotel by a river and a public bathing place, thus opening the Conghua Hot Spring to tourists from all parts of the country.

The Conghua Hot Spring area covers 14.5 sq km and is divided into two parts: the hot spring area and the Heavenly Lake tourist area. It is not only a hot spring convalescent and holiday area but also a famous scenic attraction. Verdant mountains surround it and clear streams flow through it. Red kapok flowers adorn stream banks in spring, and the litchi trees are laden with fruit in summer. It is an enchanting place well endowed by nature. The classical-style buildings, waterside pavilions and terraces fit naturally with the surroundings and the idyllic scenery. Only when you have experienced such surroundings, will you know how good a holiday can really be.

There are altogether 13 discharge points in the Conghua Hot Spring area on the eastern and western sides of the Liuxi River. The temperature of the spring water reaches 73°C at the highest and 30 (at the lowest and contains radon, good for relieving omitis, arthritis and lumbar muscle strain. Besides soaking in hot spring water, the area is also a good place for mental recuperation. Strolling through the woods on the mountains and inhaling a large quantity of anions in the air will improve the state of the respiratory and nervous systems.

In recent years, the Conghua Hot Spring Hotel has converted some of the hot springs into open-air pools and cooperated with the

- Add: 80 Liuxihe Road East, Wenquan Town, Conghua City
- Tel: (20) 8783 9318
- Fees (for reference): Bathing in the open-air pool (without time limit and including the use of sauna, surfing pool, four-colour slide and soft drinks), 118 yuan; back massage (30 minutes), 38 yuan; foot massage (30 minutes), 38 yuan; head massage (30 minutes), 38 yuan; clearing the ears (20 minutes), 30 yuan; manicure (20 minutes), 30 yuan; pedicure (20 minutes), 30 yuan; soaking the feet (15 minutes), 30 yuan.
- Lodging: The three-star Guangdong Hot Spring Hotel and Students Hostel. Bed, 50 yuan; standard room, 400~430 yuan; luxury room, 480~580 yuan; villa, 2,000~8,000 yuan. Tel: (20) 8783 8840
- To Conghua Hot Spring: Take a bus or train from Hong Kong to Guangzhou, where there are regular buses going to the Conghua Immortal Bathing Garden from the Guangzhou Passenger Bus Station (156 Huanshi Road West)

1. The 4.4-hectare Zhongshan Immortals Bathing Resort rebuilt from the famous Zhongshan Hot Spring enjoys the same popularity as it did
2. Enjoying the vapour of extracts from Chinese herb, which has a good effect for curing some disease
3. The powerful massage pool of Xianmuyuan helps circulation of blood and relaxes nervous system
4. A woman enjoying the massage of the hot spring
5. The alfresco Lanyuan Hot Spring of the history-old Conghua Hot Spring



Zhongshan Immortals Bathing Garden and Amusement Service Company in building the Radon Spring at the Conghua Hot Spring Garden. Features include a cool pool for surfing, a children's pool, a four-colour slide, an area built in the Japanese hot springs style, a Chinese traditional medicinal pool, an open-air eating place and a teahouse. Hot spring bathers will find many new diversions there.

Zhuhai Imperial Hot Spring

The Zhuhai Imperial Hot Spring (Yuwenquan), whose drawcard is its Japanese style, can be found at the western foot of Mt. Huangyang in Doumen, Zhuhai. Opened in 1998, it sparked a craze for a new kind of hot spring. Claiming to be the first Japanese-style open-air hot spring in China, it offers creative facilities and heart-warming service. Although smaller than other resorts in Guangdong, it is equipped with multi-purpose facilities and attracts a large number of visitors. It has more than 30 different types of hot spring pools with meta-silicic acid and other trace elements in the water, good for improving health, caring for the skin, soothing the nerves and resisting aging. Many of its pools show a flair for originality. The Xinghua Pool for instance is built in the shape of a map of China, higher on the western side and lower on the eastern side like China's topography. The depths and temperatures of the water vary. It takes only half a minute to go from the "Pearl River Delta" to the "Qinghai-Tibet Plateau" and feel the

difference - an interesting way of "swimming across China". The teasing Sudden Spring is also worth visiting. As people soak in steaming hot spring water, a jet of cold water suddenly spurts down from above at irregular intervals. This sudden change from warm to ice-cold water never fails to entertain. If you want to be alone, rent a luxury room equipped with television and a rest area, where you can enjoy the fine scenery beyond the windows. The wide range of pools includes wood, red wine, musical, ejecting and flagstone pools.

At the Imperial Hot Spring, the meticulous service embodies enjoyment imperial-style. You may feel cold when you first get out the

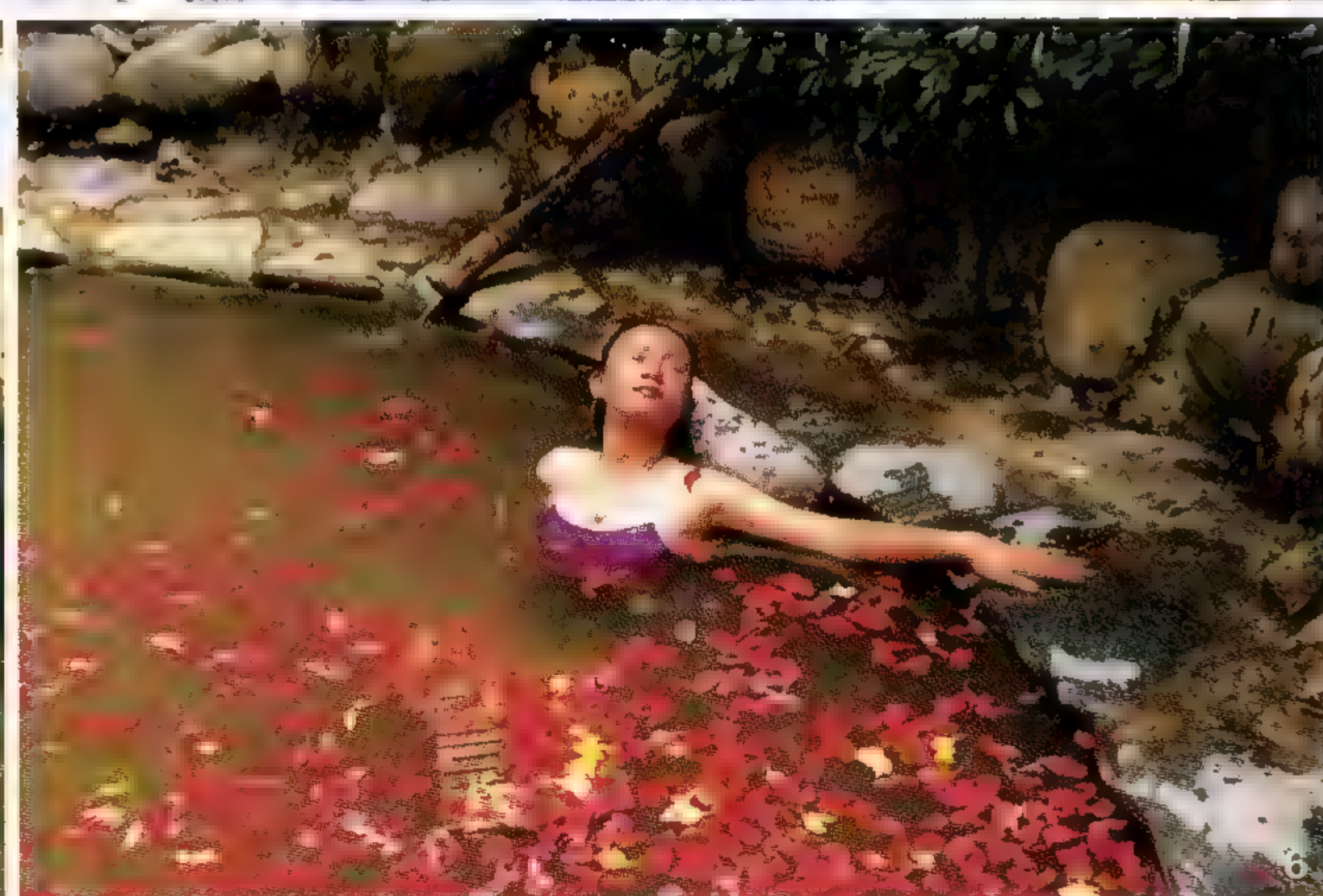
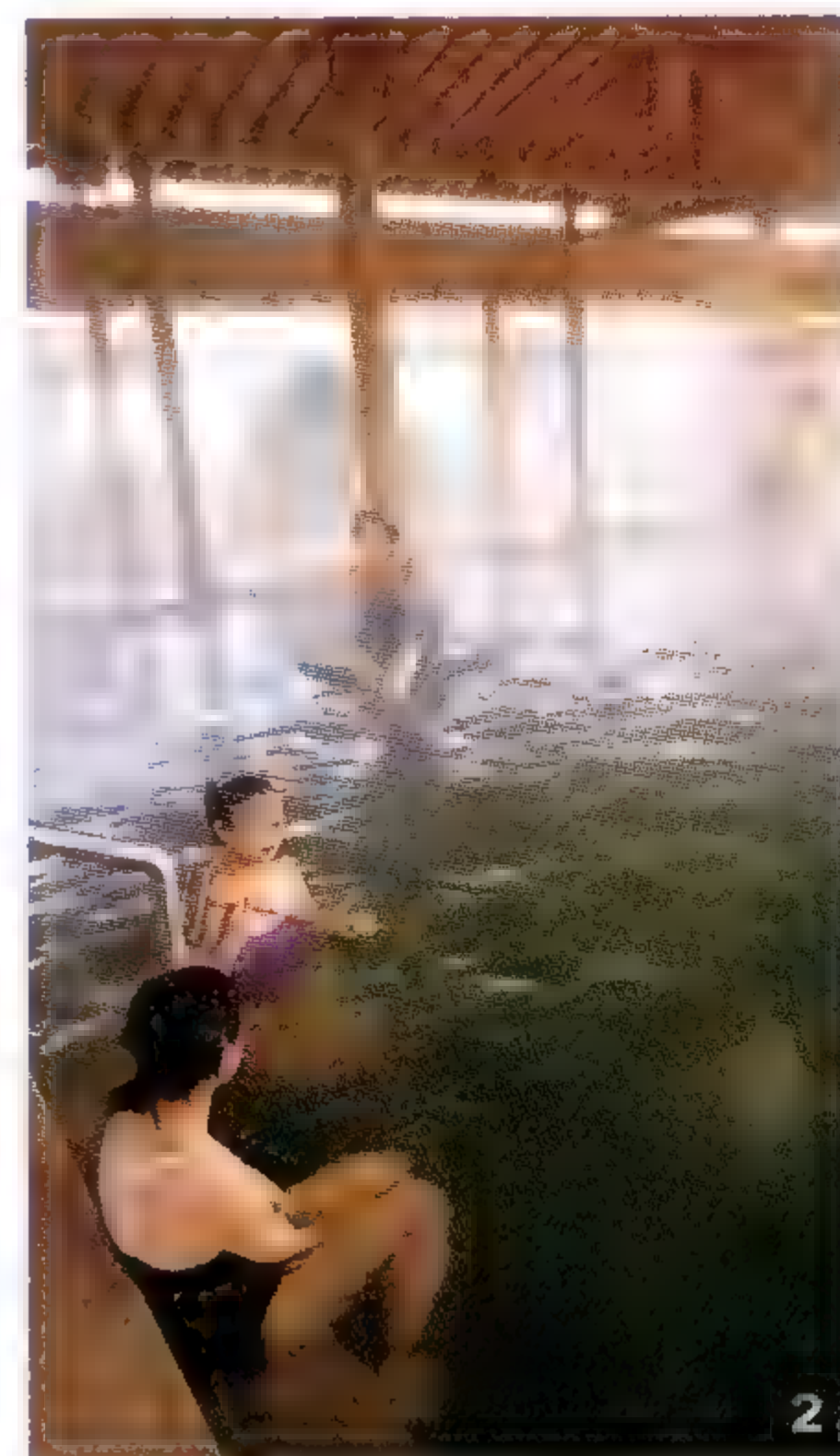
- Add: Doumen, Zhuhai, Guangdong
- Tel: (756) 5795 128
- Fees (for reference): Bathing in the hot spring (including the use of the hot spring pool, sauna, steam bathroom, light-wave bath, gymnasium, fragrant bathroom, fruit, soft drinks and refreshments), 98 yuan; luxury room, 200 yuan (for first two hours) and 100 yuan for every additional hour afterwards; fragrant room with ancient Thai style of therapy, 298 yuan (100 minutes); fragrant room with Hong Kong style of therapy, 268 yuan (100 minutes)
- Lodging: The four-star Yuyingzhuang Hotel, standard room, from 680 yuan (including bus ride to and from the hotel, breakfast, a free ticket to the Imperial Musical Hall and a reduction of 60 yuan for the hot spring bath)
- Transport: A boat goes from Hong Kong to Zhuhai's Jiuzhou Port, where the No. 609 bus leaves from the Xiangzhou terminal for the Imperial Hot Spring every 20 minutes. High-speed luxury buses also run from Guangzhou's Liuhua Hotel and Shenzhen's Overseas Chinese Hotel bus stops to the Imperial Hot Spring. A bus time-table may be obtained from the Imperial Hot Spring Resort.
- Tel: (756) 5797 120 ext: 1018

1. Enjoy yourself in hot spring pool
2. The hot spring pool with air-conditioning make you more comfortable
3. The Huaxinchi pool is imitated on the map of China with different water temperature inside
4. Japanese style hotel room
5. Mentally relaxed and leave all your worries behind
6. The open-air hot spring pool with Chinese herbal medicine



Tips for Bathing in a Hot Spring

- 1. Physical condition:** People who suffer from high blood pressure, severe cardiovascular disorders or skin sores or are pregnant must not bathe in a hot spring. Nor should anyone who has eaten too much or is very hungry, intoxicated or unwell.
- 2. Wash yourself before getting into the pool:** the water in the pool is clean and if your skin is clean it will better absorb the trace elements in the water.
- 3. Adjust yourself to the temperature of the water:** The best way to do this is to pour a few dippers of water over yourself, so that your body will adjust to the temperature.
- 4. Get into the pool slowly:** Wet your hands and feet first, and then slowly immerse your whole body only when you are used to the temperature of the water.
- 5. Note the time:** Remember that the longer the better is not the case when soaking in a hot spring. The best therapeutic effect can be achieved only by soaking for a suitable time followed by intervals of rest. Generally, one should not bathe in a hot spring more than three times a day. Each time should not last more than 30 minutes. Soak for three to five minutes for the first time and then take a three-minute rest. This can be repeated with each soak lasting five to 15 minutes. Never stay in the water too long.
- 6. Relax:** When bathing in a hot spring, one should be mentally relaxed and leave all one's worries behind. Breathe regularly or chat with friends or family members. This will double the effect of the bath. In a word, thoroughly enjoy yourself.
- 7. Water replenishment:** As you perspire, you will become dehydrated. Drinking some water will readjust the metabolic process.
- 8. Take a rest after bathing:** After bathing in a hot spring, you should not engage in strenuous exercises but allow your body to wholly unwind.



water. Never mind. A clean white towel will soon be handed to you. In a cold winter, the towels are warmed. You feel thirsty when you leave a hot pool. Beckon to an attendant and a cool cup of something will be offered you. When the pool becomes stuffy on a hot summer day, puffs of cold spray cool down the air. After a long enough soak, you can move to the fragrance room and inhale some fragrant air or go to the sauna and steam-bath room or lie down on a sofa in the lounge and take a nap. When you wake up, you will be served with a plate of seasonal fruit. If you like, you can also have your feet massaged as a refresher. After experiencing this kind of service, you will certainly feel like an emperor.

To continue the Japanese theme, the four-star Imperial Yingzhuang Hotel in the hot spring area is decorated in the Japanese style with tatami mats in each room. Each guest is provided with a kimono and a pair of wooden clogs. On request, a tea ceremony is performed in the room so guests can taste Japanese green tea and thoroughly enjoy the Japanese concept of pleasure. ☞

Translated by Jin Jianzhong & Tang Bowen



TALES OF THE TIBETAN ANTELOPE

Photos & article by Liu Yujun Edited by Dianna Lau



The alpine steppes of Qinghai and Tibet, often called the "World's Third Pole", is notable for dozens of enchanting peaks soaring over 7,000 metres high and some very special species of fauna. The Tibetan antelope is a typical example. Its secret birthing place in the depths of the isolated snowlands has always been a mystery. For 200 years zoologists persisted with their research and exploration attempts and in the summer of 1999, finally solved the puzzle.



Getting to Know the Habitat

Geography: The Tibetan antelope primarily inhabits the Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Its current population is approximately 60,000, and its main birthing place is on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. With the plateau's average altitude of 5,000 metres, and the oxygen level 50 percent that at sea level, it is often referred to as the "forbidden zone" for humans. The vast uninhabited area of Hoh Xil, west of the

Qinghai-Tibet Highway and between the mountain ranges of Tanggula and Kunlun, covers an area of around 250,000 sq km. Here, where there is the greatest concentration of lakes in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, rare and exotic wildlife can be found, perhaps the most interesting being the Tibetan antelope.

Climate: Due to the unique geographical location of Hoh Xil, its climate is arctic all year round. The air is thin, annual average temperature is only -4.4~10°C and average

annual precipitation is in the 173~495 mm range, mostly in the form of snow. The daily weather on the plateau is highly unpredictable. A nice sunny day may suddenly turn bad with violent winds and a

1. In the summer of 1998, herds of Tibetan antelopes at their birthing place at Zhuonai Lake. In recent years, due to the disruption of poachers and gold-diggers, this sort of lively scene can no longer be found
2. The Tibetan antelope is an endangered species and under the first-degree protection of the state

sudden downpour, even hail. Then snow might fall, and even the dormant volcano can awaken and belch forth steam. At midday in summer, amid a mild, green grassland scene, a sudden change in the weather can produce the strange phenomenon of "four seasons in one day."

Female's Instinctive Role

Every June, thousands of Tibetan antelopes gather in the south of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. While the male antelopes stay behind to enjoy life on the mild and sunny southern grasslands, the female antelopes instinctively head north, taking their almost one-year-old female offspring with them. The mother antelope is preparing for the birth of the calf she conceived the previous autumn, while the little female antelope needs to learn the way from her mother, so she can carry out the same reproductive duties in the future.

The female antelopes leave the south as a herd, crossing over mountains and glaciers more than 6,000 metres high, heading towards the northeastern lakes district of the uninhabited Hoh Xil area on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. However the precise birthing place



International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), he published the book *The Last Animal Country* in both English and Chinese (available at Hong Kong's "Friends of the Earth").

In 2000, he registered the Shenzhen Tianxingyu Film & Television Culture Co. Ltd. with his own funds. The material shot on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau over 10 years was compiled and edited, resulting in a 20-episode television documentary *The Tibetan Antelope and I*. The words and photographs in this story are all selected from the documentary.

Author Profile : Liu Yujun, director and photographer, has won accolades and awards at home and abroad, including first prize at the China Television Awards, first prize in the CCTV Cup, Best Playwright-director, Mercury Award at Japan's Toyama International Film Festival. Since 1991, he has spent 10 years photographing the Tibetan antelope in the "forbidden zone" of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. To answer the question of the Tibetan antelope's birthing place that has mystified the world for years, he provided the most comprehensive and authoritative proof after years of criss-crossing the Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. At the beginning of last year, with support from organisations such as the



of the Tibetan antelopes had remained an unsolved puzzle for many years.

The snow begins to melt in July, the frozen ground soon becoming a sea of mud and slush. The mother antelope must complete birthing before August and go back, or there is no way out. During the course of the birth season, on average around 1,000 baby antelopes are born.

Male's Instinctive Role

According to experts' proven research, there are important reasons why the male antelope do not follow the females to the north. The first is to nurture and protect the young male antelope in the south; according to statistics, only three out of 10 offspring are male, so they must be looked after carefully. The second reason is that the males must act





2

as the support base for the female antelope. By remaining behind, they distract those predators, such as wolves, inclined to follow the female antelope north. One wolf might kill 12 antelopes on average per year.

Mysterious Birthing Place

In 1991, based on an accurate map made by a US satellite, Dr. George Schaller, one of the world's most respected ungulate animal scientists, along with team leader Gu

Binyuan, Professor at the Tibet Plateau Biological Research Institute, formed a Sino-US joint discovery and exploration team. They went deep into the uninhabited areas of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, spending 10 years searching for the birthing grounds of the Tibetan antelope. In the ensuing hardship, team members had countless close encounters with death, 12 colleagues gave their lives to

the cause, and Professor Gu himself was struck was paralysis due to extended periods spent on the oxygen-deprived plateau.

In the summer of 1998, the research team finally discovered the birthing place of the Tibetan antelope in the uninhabited Hoh

Xil area, in the northeast of the plateau. Over the next summer, zoologists carried out field research that conclusively proved the shores

of Lake Zhuonai at 4,700 metres above sea level as the birthing place of the Tibetan antelope!



1. The mother Tibetan antelopes need to return south as soon as possible after giving birth
2. Spirit of the snowy alpine — Tibetan antelope
3. Male Tibetan antelopes have a pair of long horns
4. In order to search for the breeding place of the Tibetan antelope, the exploring teams have been to the Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai Province, and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



Rearing the Babies


The environment around Lake Zhuonai provides ideal conditions for the few-days-old antelopes to thrive. The species is adapted to the plateau's low temperatures (to date there have been no successful cases of artificially breeding Tibetan antelopes), and strong heat would harm them. However the fickle climate on the plateau can lead to half or even more young antelope dying less than two months after birth.

Observations showed 90 percent of the baby antelopes are born within a five-day period. Newborns weigh around three kilograms and can walk after an hour; and after three to four hours they can even match the pace of their mothers. The nourishing high-fat milk of the mother Tibetan antelope is enough to double the baby's weight within 10 days. In fact, baby antelopes at a few days old can already digest grass, but they are still dependent on their mother's milk during the journey back south to their winter grounds.

Although the northern birthing place offers spacious grasslands and abundant food, the warm days are soon over, so to beat the coming winter and return to the south, the animals must make an early start. Juvenile antelopes fend off the cold with their own thick undercoats and the mother's body warmth. Straight from birth, the youngsters show the natural confidence and agility characteristic of the species. But there are still frequent dangers. When the herd runs across the snow plains at high speed some young antelope get left behind. Other mothers won't adopt the lost babies, so they

often suffer a cruel fate. Every year at this time, the bald eagle is searching for weak or unprotected baby antelopes; were it not for the mothers' close attention, the small babies would find it hard to survive.

In August, the antelopes make the successful return journey. After their long wait, the male Tibetan antelopes are finally united with their families.

Soon, it will be another year and the whole biological process begins again. 

Translated by Cheng Lei

1. The desert is among the sights of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau
2. Entering the no man's land of northern Tibet, we meet the last family of herdsmen. They say one can go no further. Beyond is the so-called "dead man's gully", and people who go there hardly ever make it out alive. But the exploration team must go on. it is indeed a tough road for the female antelopes travelling northward
3. Yaks are important partners of the Tibetans
4. On August 9, 1999, Wild Yak Brigade members battled with poachers at the Hoh Xil ice river; 17 poachers were caught, 1065 chiru pelts, nine guns and over 10,000 bullets were confiscated. The chirus were halfway back south when killed by poachers
5. The earthen forest of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau





WHAT IS SHAHTOOSH

(Information provided by the Suonan Dajie Conservation Station)

Shahtoosh translated from Persian means the “king of wools”. The description is no exaggeration at all. Shahtoosh is as light as a feather, soft as a baby’s skin, yet it is extremely warm. The woollen fibre used to knit Shahtoosh comes from the near extinct Tibetan antelope, or Chiru (*Pantholops hodgsoni*). Within its coat is the world’s finest fibre, with a mean diameter that is 3/4 the thickness of cashmere and one fifth of human hair. So an extremely large shawl can easily be passed through a ring, earning it the name of “Diamond Ring Shawl”.

The Price for Shatushi

But hidden behind the vain pursuit of luxury is death: according to statistics from the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), to knit one Shahtoosh shawl takes 300~600 grams of raw wool. In other words, three to five Tibetan antelopes have to die by the bullet.

Even though the Tibetan antelope can also be found in the Ladakh region, Chiru is an animal unique to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Since 1975, the Tibetan antelope has been listed in Appendix One of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),

which expressly forbids the international trading of any part of the Tibetan antelope’s body and organs, as well as its byproducts.

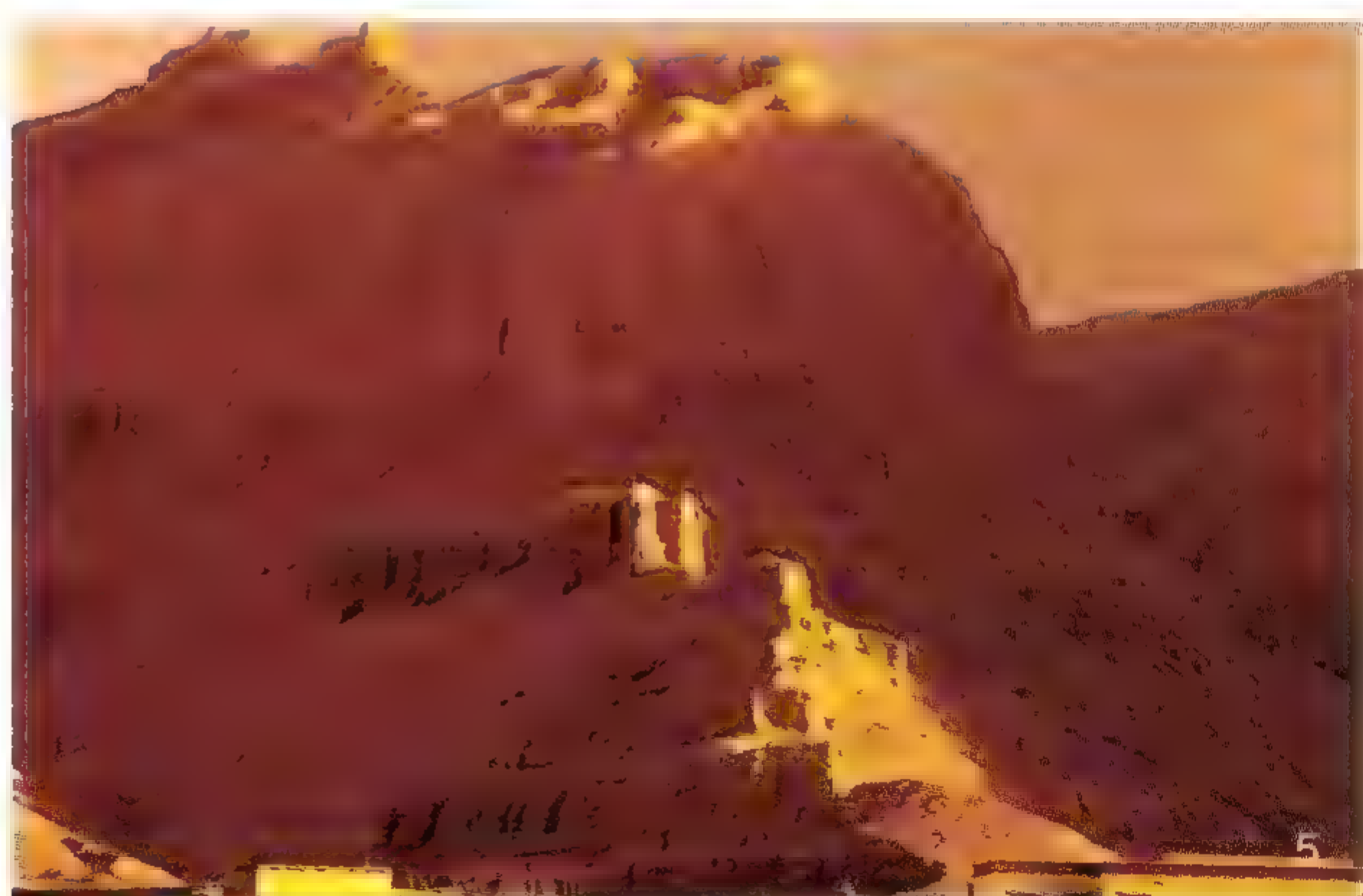
For centuries, the art of Shahtoosh shawl making in north India has been regarded as a most exquisite craft. Yet the superb workmanship that has taken Shahtoosh into the world fashion arena has also sent the Tibetan antelope down the road to extinction. Even with the protection of the law and trading bans, the popularity of Shahtoosh in the western world shows no signs of abating, and led to a frenzied increase in poaching activities from the late 1980s to the early 90s. In the past decade, the Tibetan antelope population dropped rapidly by 50,000 to 100,000. As many as 20,000 Chirus are poached annually, based on estimates by China’s State Forestry Administration.

The increasing global demand for Shahtoosh has left a bloodstained path. From 1990 to 1998, China’s official records show 100 cases of poaching; booty confiscated included 17,000 Chiru skins, 1,100 kg of wool and 300 guns and 153 vehicles belonging to poachers. More than 3,000 poachers have been arrested and at least three shot dead at the scene.

At one time, a “Wild Yak Brigade” was formed in Hoh Xil. For six years they slept and ate in the bitter cold of the wilderness, just to stop the poachers’ massacre of Chiru. In life and death struggles, the brigade’s first chief, Suonan Dajie, and its second chief, Zhaba Duoqie, both died in the cause of protecting the Chiru.

Today, various departments have put into place a series of anti-poaching and anti-smuggling initiatives; the Hoh Xil Nature Reserve has been set up, and the “Xining Declaration” was signed with international organizations. This aims to improve co-ordination between countries and organizations in their work to protect the endangered extinct wild Tibetan antelope. It is hoped that the story of the Tibetan antelope will continue, in the peace and quiet of its own habitat.

Relevant website: www.wpsi-india.org



RARE SPECIES

OF THE PLATEAU

The extreme wilderness of the alpine steppes where snowy peaks and icy glaciers abound, is an endless desolate and isolated land of frozen earth and flowing streams. At the same time as nature created the spectacular scenery of the plateau, it has also provided countless living things for this environment. For humans, life here is virtually forbidden; but in nature where survival of the fittest is the rule, the hardest alpine animals thrive, making the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau one of the world's richest sources of wildlife.

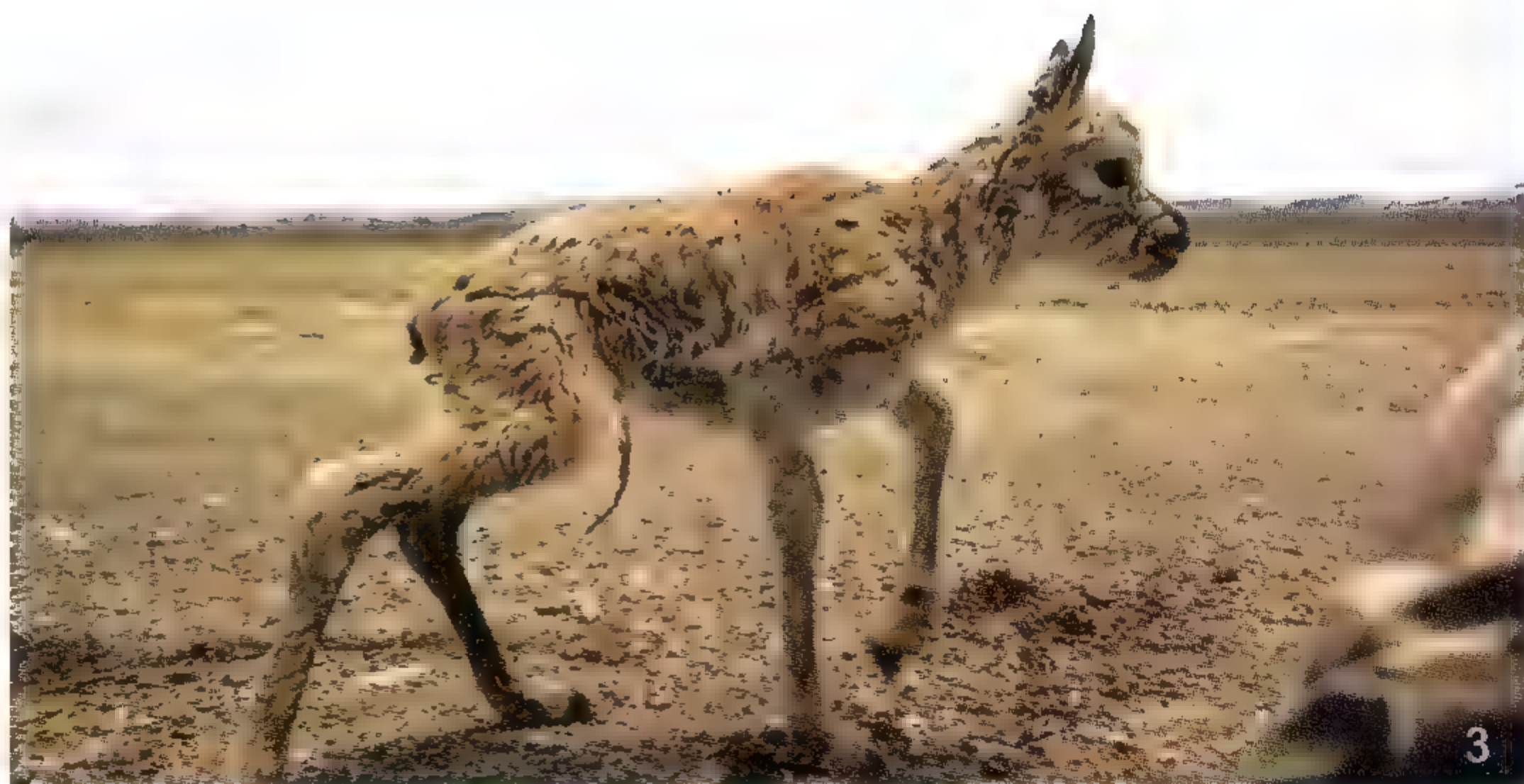


1. Zizhu Monastery — a mecca for Ben Sect of Tibetan Lamaism
2. The keeper of a monastery in eastern Tibet is feeding wild birds
3. A newly-born Tibetan antelope, still carrying the umbilical cord, takes its first steps
4. Among the world's endangered species and given first-degree protection in China, the wild yak is one of the unique animals on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Wild yaks are mostly black, but two rare types are the golden haired wild yak and silver haired wild yak
5. A pair of three-month-old griffon vultures, an aggressive bird special

to Tibet. A three-month-old vulture weighs around 8.5 kg and an adult vulture has a wingspan of almost two metres

6. There are many types of lizards found on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, ranging in size from 0.5 centimetre to close to a metre. When face to face with humans, they always seem highly curious
7. The black-necked crane, one of the plateau's unique creatures, is one of the world's endangered species and under first-degree protection in China
8. Following the Tibetan antelope means taking a dangerous and rugged route





3



4



5



6

Words from Liu Yujun:

A mystery of the world – the birthing place of the Tibetan antelope has been revealed, but people have paid the price with their lives.

Today, the eyes of the whole world are on the fate of the Tibetan antelopes. To people's surprise, the Tibetan antelope, an almost symbolic species of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is on the verge of extinction, solely because of poaching and the international trade in the Shamshe made of antelope wool. The extinction of a species from this planet is something nobody wants to see happen, but that is what is occurring. For the sake of our shared planet, we make a united plea: to help save the Tibetan antelope, to save this animal of the forbidden zone.

Everyone should understand that humans are not the only inhabitants on earth.



7



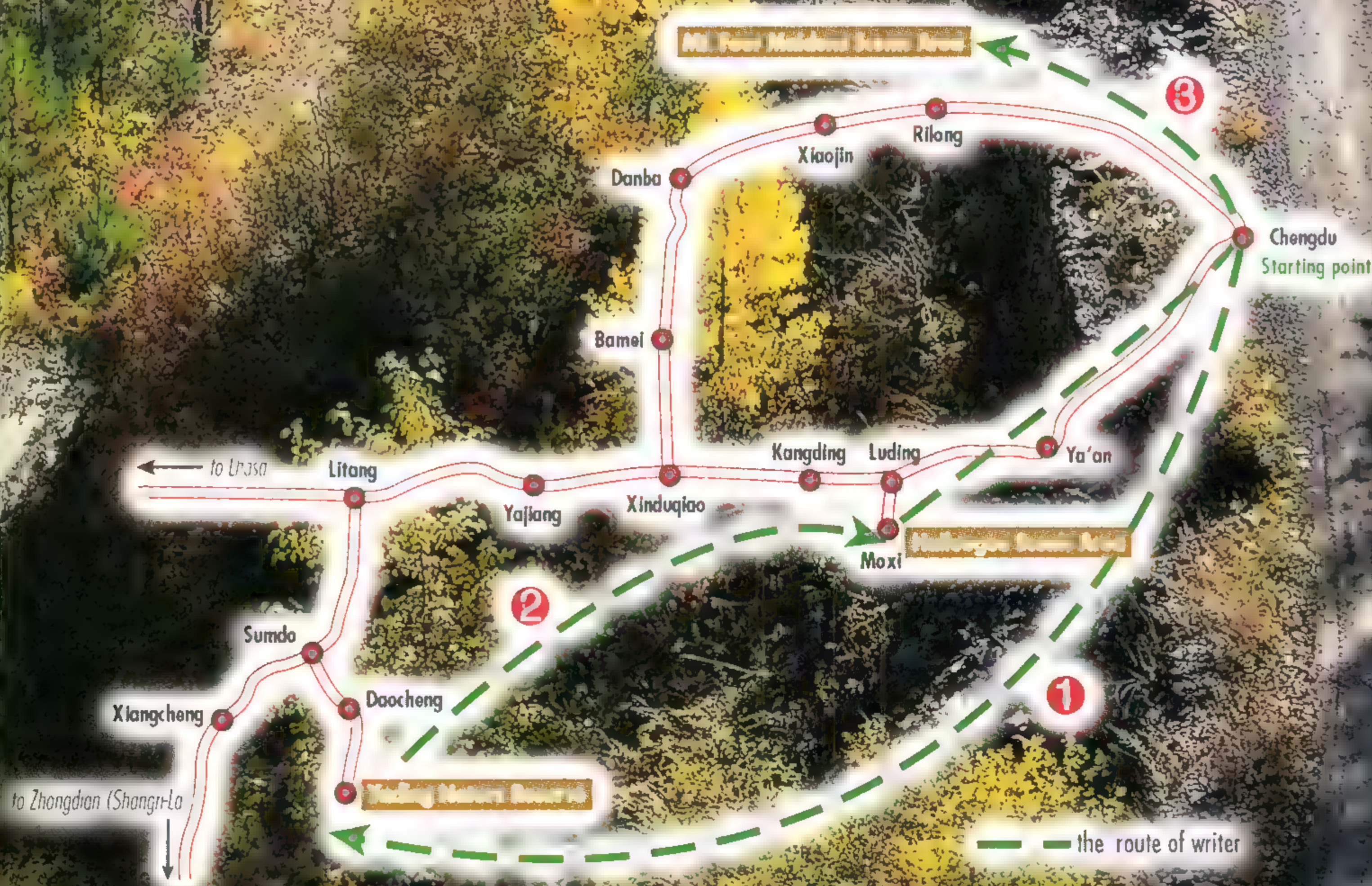
8

TRACING SICHUAN'S AUTUMN SCENERY

Photos & article by Li Zhenhang

China's Sichuan Province is renowned for its affluent travel resources. I am most intoxicated by the continuous snow-capped mountain ranges in the western part of the province, such as the 'King and Queen of Mountains in Sichuan' — Mt. Gonggar and Mt. Siguniang (Four Maidens) respectively. The gateway to Shangri-La — the Yading Sacred Mountain in Daocheng, is even a haven in my dream.

Finally, I visited all these three places in last golden autumn, having my wish come true.



The glamorous Panshan Highway on Mt. Echu
(camera: 6x4.5, lens: 85mm, shutter: 1/8 sec.,
aperture: f22, exposure compensation: -1/3EV,
ISO50 slide)

STOP 1: YADING NATURE RESERVE

Itineraries

- Day 1** Chengdu → Yaan (lunch) → Kangding
6:45 (Dep.) 16:30 (Arr.)
Chengya Expressway Erlangshan Channel
- Day 2** Kangding → Yajiang River (lunch) → Litang → Mt. Haizi Scenic Area → Daocheng
18:30 (Arr.)
Mt. Zheduo Gao'er Monastery Mt. Kazila
- Day 3** Daocheng → Riwa Township (lunch) → Longlongba Reception Centre → Chonggu Monastery
6:00 (Dep.) 14:00 (Arr.)
Muddy road walk
- Day 4** Chonggu Monastery → Lhorong Cattle Farm
ride horse
- Day 5** Lhorong Cattle Farm → Chonggu Monastery
- Day 6** Chonggu Monastery → Longlongba Reception Centre → Riwa Township
ride horse
- Day 7** Riwa Township → Mt. Echu Scenic Area → Riwa Township (lunch) → Daocheng (to be cont'd)

Transportation

To Daocheng There are two possible routes to Daocheng. The faster one is to take a scheduled bus at the Xinnanmen (New South Gate) Bus Terminus in Chengdu. If there are no direct buses to Daocheng, you may first take a car to Kangding, which may take two days and a fare of 220 yuan. Another route is to start from Kunming, Yunnan Province. Go to Zhongdian then Xiangcheng, and take a bus there to Daocheng.

To Yading The most convenient way to Yading is to hire a jeep from Daocheng. One day may cost 400~500 yuan.

Yading Scenic Area Horse hiring: 88 yuan per person/day; Riwa Township to Longlongba Reception Centre: 88 yuan/person; Chonggu

Monastery to Lhorong Cattle Farm:

35 yuan/ person; Longlongba to Zhoima Lamco:

30 yuan/ person.

Accommodation

Daocheng Yading Hostel, County

Government Hostel: 20~30 yuan/ bed;

Jiaotong Hotel (with bathroom): 80 yuan/ room.

Riwa Township Gucun Hostel,

Sansheng Ruyi Hostel: 20~25/ bed.

Yading Scenic Area No. 1 Campsite:

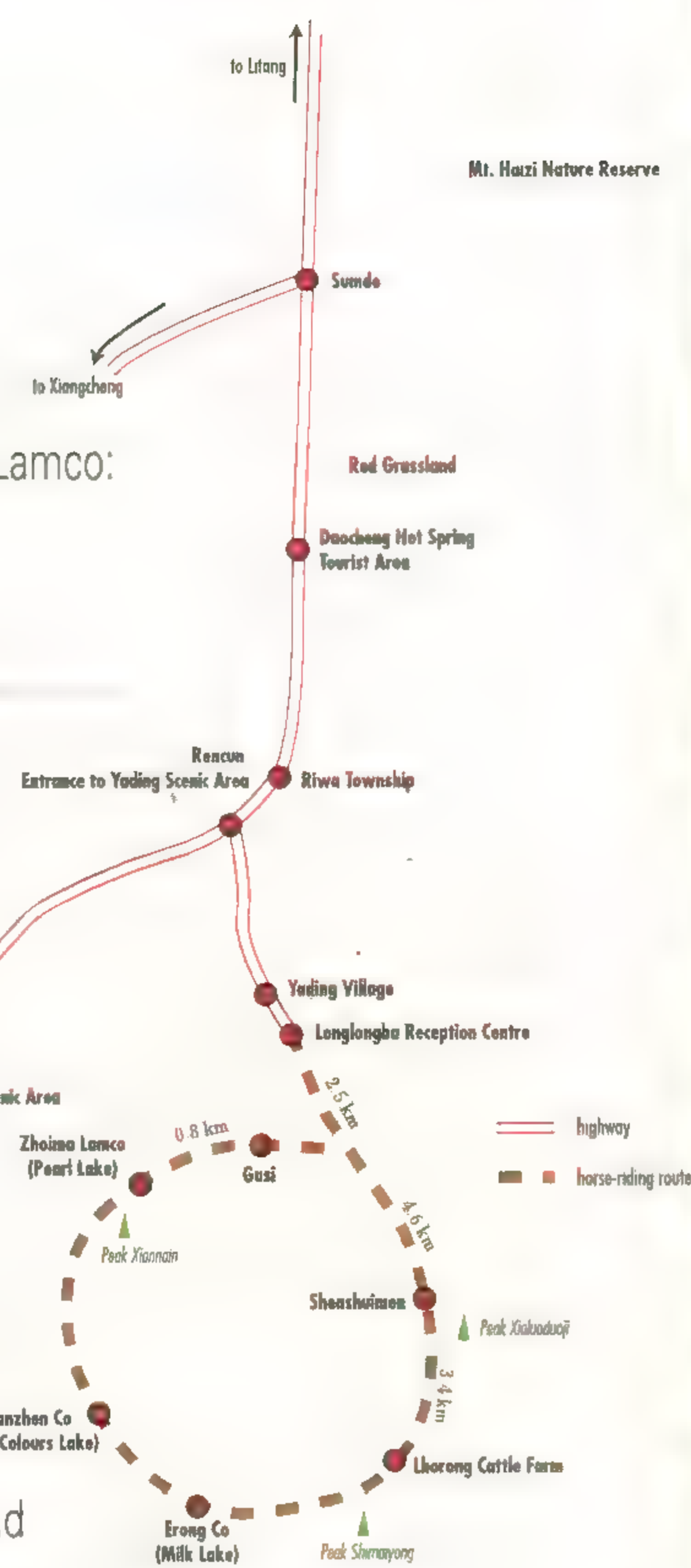
30 yuan/ bed; Chonggu Monastery:

25 yuan/ bed; Lhorong Cattle Farm

Tent: 30 yuan/ bed. Both campsites and farm tent will move out of the scenic area from every November to April.

Experiences

Haizi Mountain Scenic Area — Leaving the Sichuan-Tibet Highway from Litang, we headed southward to the Haizi Mountain Scenic Area. A piece of ruin of ancient glacier remained from the Himalayan platonic movement, with an area of 3,287 sq km. Numerous exotic rocks and more than 1,000 alpine lakes spread over this area. Going further is the Hongcaotan (Red Grassland), where a vast piece of flaming red grasses are mixed with pebbles of different sizes and golden fallen leaves, forming an irresistible picture.



Mt. Xiannairi in autumn (by Li Decheng)



Under the Yading Sacred Mountain, even a withered tree looks lifelike

(camera: 6x4.5; lens: 85mm; shutter: 1/6 sec.; aperture: f11; ISO50 slide)



The Peak Yangmai Yong is reflected in the small ice pond. It seems more holy.
(camera: 6x4.5; lens: 85mm; shutter: 1/5 sec.; aperture: f22; exposure compensation: +1EV; ISO50 slide)

◆ Tips:

1. There is usually no hot bath in the hostels in Daocheng. One can have a shower in public bathrooms, or go to the hot springs. Those with altitude sickness should not take bath in hot springs as this may worsen the illness.
2. On arrival at the Longlongpoa Reception Centre in Yading Village, remember to confirm the return time with the driver, since it is difficult to find a car there.
3. To reach the Erong Co (Milk Lake) and Danzhen Co (Five Colours Lake), located 4,720 and 4,820 metres above sea level respectively, one may have to walk up the mountain right of the Lhorong Cattle Farm for 6 to 7 hours. Travelers should do what your strength allows.

◆ Remarks:

1. Located between 3,700~4,800 metres above sea level, the Yading Nature Reserve owns unstable climate. There are big difference in temperature between day and night. Prepare enough cold-resistant clothes, such as a Gore-Tex jacket and a pair of water-resistant climbing shoes.
2. The ultra-violet ray is extremely strong on highland. Whenever going outdoor, do wear a sun cap and sunglasses, and put on sun-ray lotion and lip balm.
3. Remember to carry a torch when going up the mountains.
4. Prepare some anodyne, flu pills and antidiarrheal.
5. When suffered from altitude sickness on the highland, do slow down the action to let the body adjust the pressure change gradually.
6. Best travel periods to Daocheng: April~June; September~November.

Yading Nature Reserve: 128 yuan

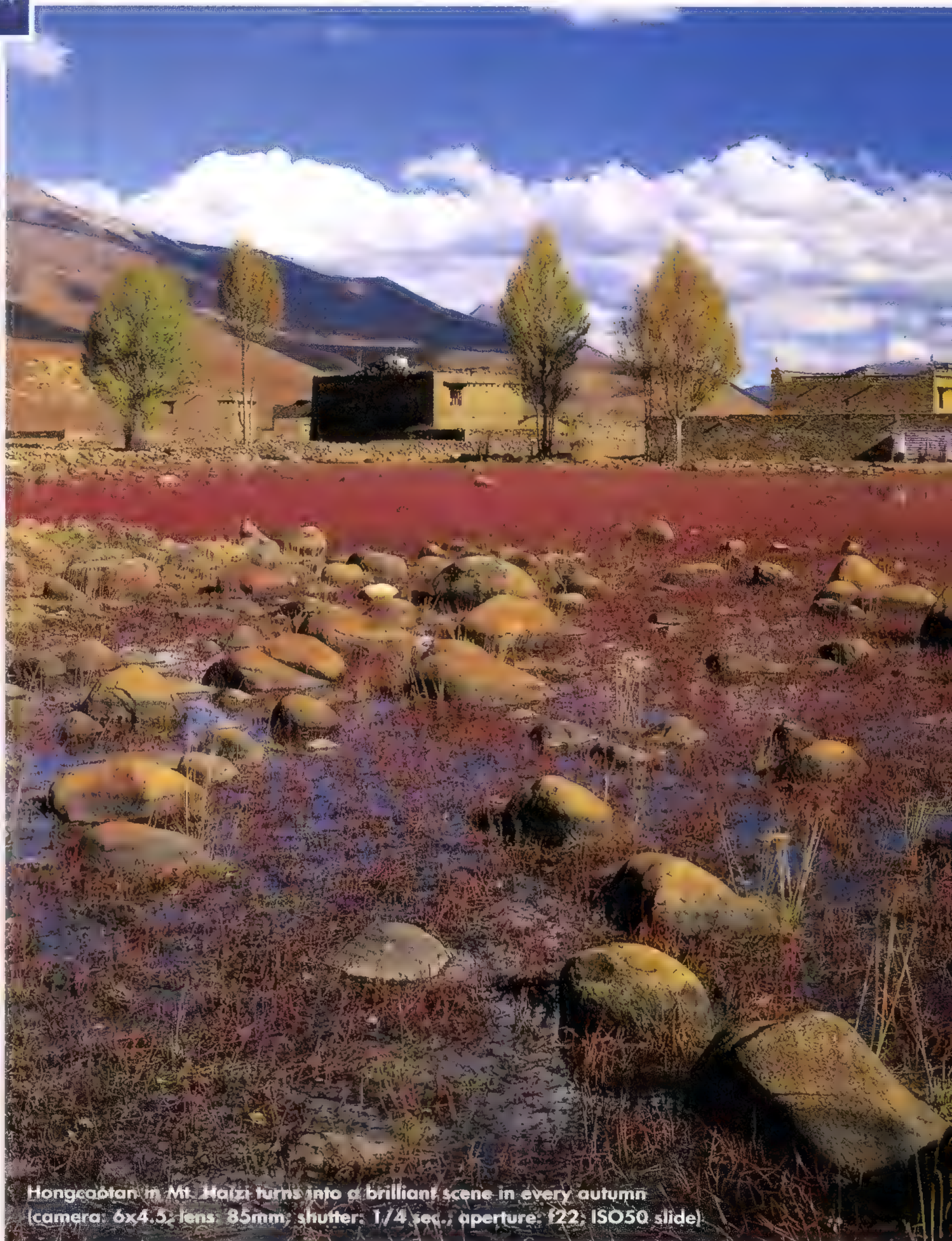
◆ Admission:

Mt. Echu Scenic Area: 20 yuan

Yading Nature Reserve — About 99 km away from Daocheng and covering an area of 1,000-plus sq km, Yading is also known as “Nyainqen Konggar Risum Goinbu” in Tibetan language, which means “holy place of three law-protecting sacred mountains with accumulated snow all the year round”. The scenic area is mainly formed by three snow-capped mountains which locating as the three angles of a triangle. Xiannairi, the north peak, is standing 6,032 metres above sea level, while Yangmai Yong, the south peak, and Xialuoduoji, the east peak, both 5,958 metres above sea level. The three crests form a spectacular view.

Chonggu Monastery — It is located at the foot of the Peak Xiannairi. Walking up the mountain for about one kilometre from the monastery, one can reach the Zhoima Lamco (Pearl Lake). The lake is as clear as a mirror, reflecting the lofty Peak Xiannairi and creating a fairy scene. On the grasslands nearby the monastery, one can see another sacred mountain—Peak Xialuoduoji.

Lhorong Cattle Farm — We arrived at the Cattle Farm located about eight kilometres from



Hongcaotan in Mt. Haili turns into a brilliant scene in every autumn.
(camera: 6x4.5; lens: 85mm; shutter: 1/4 sec.; aperture: f22; ISO50 slide)



At the No.4 Campsite in Conch Valley, one can clearly view the main peak of Mt. Gongga and the glacier which stretches deep to the virgin forest (camera: 6x4.5; lens: 55mm; shutter: 1/3 sec.; aperture: f22; exposure compensation: +2/3EV; ISO50 slide)

the Chonggu Monastery by riding horses on the next day. The sky turned dim in the afternoon, while the mountains were covered by grey clouds and temperature began to drop. It snowed ultimately. We hurried back to the canteen and rested beside a pile of fire. On the next day before the first glow of light, we had already packed up our photographic equipment and headed to our destinations.

Echu Mountain Scenic Area — Returning from Longlongba to the Lhorong Cattle Farm, we hired a jeep for two days which cost 650 yuan. Arriving in Riwa Township, we went further to Mt. Echu. Meaning “shining mountain” in Tibetan language, Mt. Echu is the largest forest area in Daocheng County. In autumn, the mountain is dyed in red colour and glow under sunshine. Houses built by the Tibetans scattered on the mountains, again an idyllic scene.

STOP 2: HAILUOGOU SCENIC AREA

Itineraries

- Day 8** (cont'd from Day 7) Daocheng → Kangding
- Day 9** Kangding → Moxi → Hailuogou (Conch Valley)
- Day 10** Conch Valley → Kangding (to be cont'd)

Transportation

There are direct tour bus from Xinnanmen Bus Terminus in Chengdu to Hailuogou during peak travel season. Otherwise, one may first take a scheduled bus to Luding, and change another bus to there.

Accommodation

Moxi Town Hailin Hotel: 160 yuan/ room; Golden Hailuogou Hotel: 160 yuan/ room

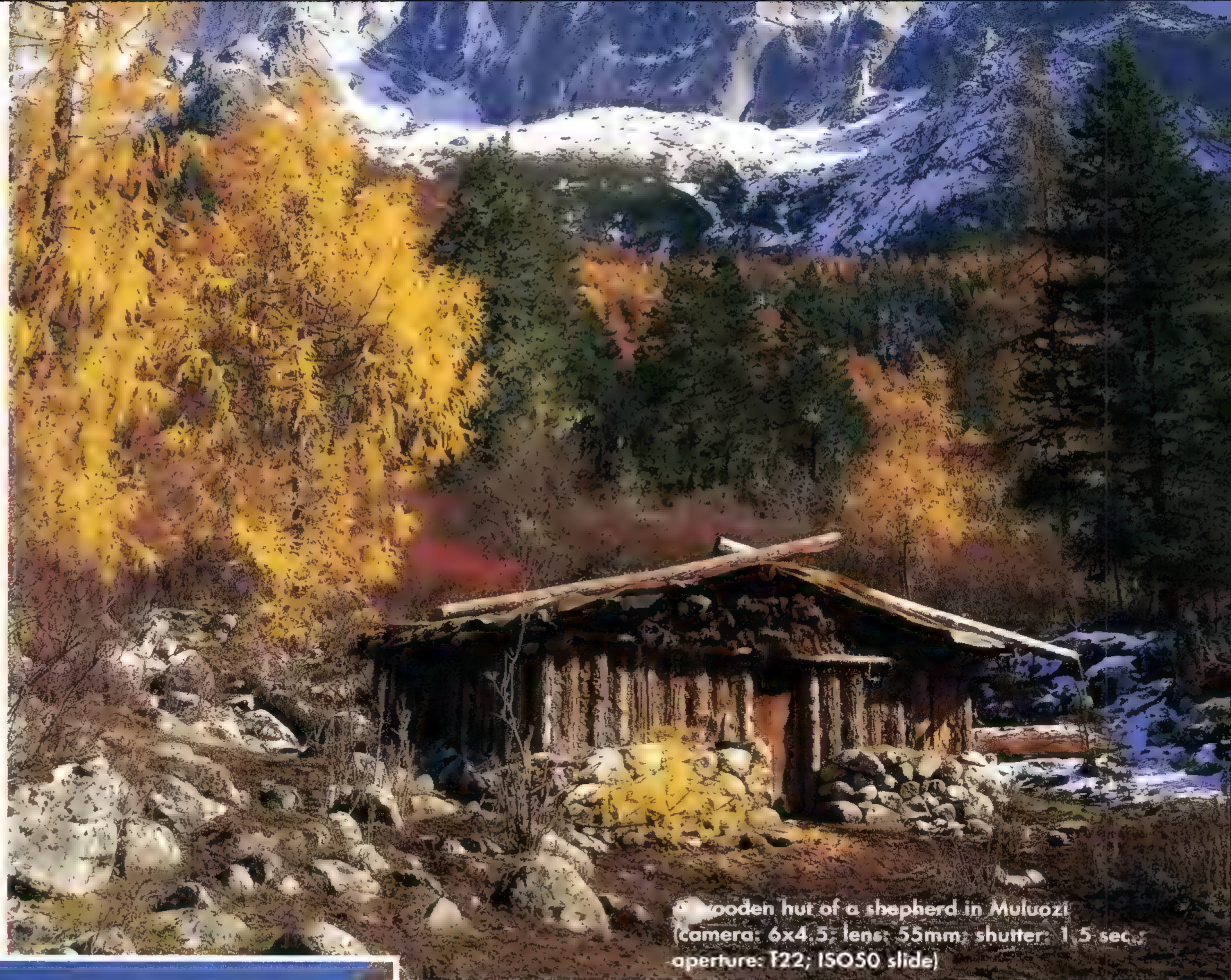
No. 3 Campsite Jinshan Hotel (3-star): 580 yuan/ room; Hailuogou Hotel (3-star): 580 yuan/ room.

Experiences

Leaving Yading for Kangding, we hired a car to Hailuogou (fare: 200 yuan). Stretching 30.7 km, the valley lies on the eastern slope of Mt. Gonggar, the highest peak in Sichuan. The scenic area is integrated with contemporary glaciers, hot springs, and virgin forest, and is well equipped with tourist facilities. There are tour buses to No. 1, 2, and 3 campsites. A newly-opened cableway could also easily bring tourists to the No.4 Campsite.



Colorful autumn scene in Conch Valley (camera: 6x4.5; lens: 55mm; shutter: 1/3 sec.; aperture: f16; ISO50 slide)



Wooden hut of a shepherd in Muluozi
(camera: 6x4.5; lens: 55mm; shutter: 1/5 sec.; aperture: f22; ISO50 slide)



Muluozi is the most scenic place in Changping Valley
(camera: 6x4.5; lens: 60mm; shutter: 1/3 sec.; aperture: f22; ISO50 slide)

Taking a tourist bus, we arrived in the No. 3 Campsite and entered the virgin forest by following small paths. On the way, we were surrounded by sky-reaching trees. Browsing downward from the View-watching Terrace, we saw a gigantic glacier in the front, forming a canyon which penetrated deep in the forest. The simultaneous existence of glacier and forest is the most unique scene in Hailuoguo.

The 3,500-metre-long cycling cableway linking to the No. 3 and 4 campsites is the longest of its kind in China. On the cableway, one can browse the six-kilometre-long glacier tongue in the forest from a new perspective. It was the first time we saw the stunning main peak of Mt. Gonggar, and the whole glacier appeared before us. Walking down along the glacier, we saw the surface of the ice was actually covered by stones and gravels, as well as the fathomless cracks of glaciers.

The scenery between the No. 2 and 3 campsites was the most fruitful. On both sides of the road was a colourful world. Plants of different species and colours mingled on the land. We even enjoyed soaking in the hot springs in No. 2 Campsite.

◆ Tips:

1. Walking down along a short path from the Jinshan Hotel, one could see a road sign to Mt. Rizhaojin. This is the best location to shoot the mountains
2. Morning is the best time to go to No. 4 Campsite to shoot Mt. Gonggar and the glacier, for they will be back to the light in the afternoon.
3. The best time to shoot autumn scenery is from mid-October to early November

◆ Remarks:

1. Tourists do not visit the glacier spot alone for it will be too dangerous.
2. Never leap over the caution line when touring on the glaciers.
3. Do wear sunglasses because the sunlight reflection of the glacier is extremely strong.

◆ Admittances:

Hailuoguo Scenic Area: 70 yuan; tour bus in Hailuoguo: 60 yuan;
sight-seeing cableway: 160 yuan; No. 2 Campsite hot spring: 65 yuan.

STOP 3: MT. FOUR MAIDENS SCENIC AREA

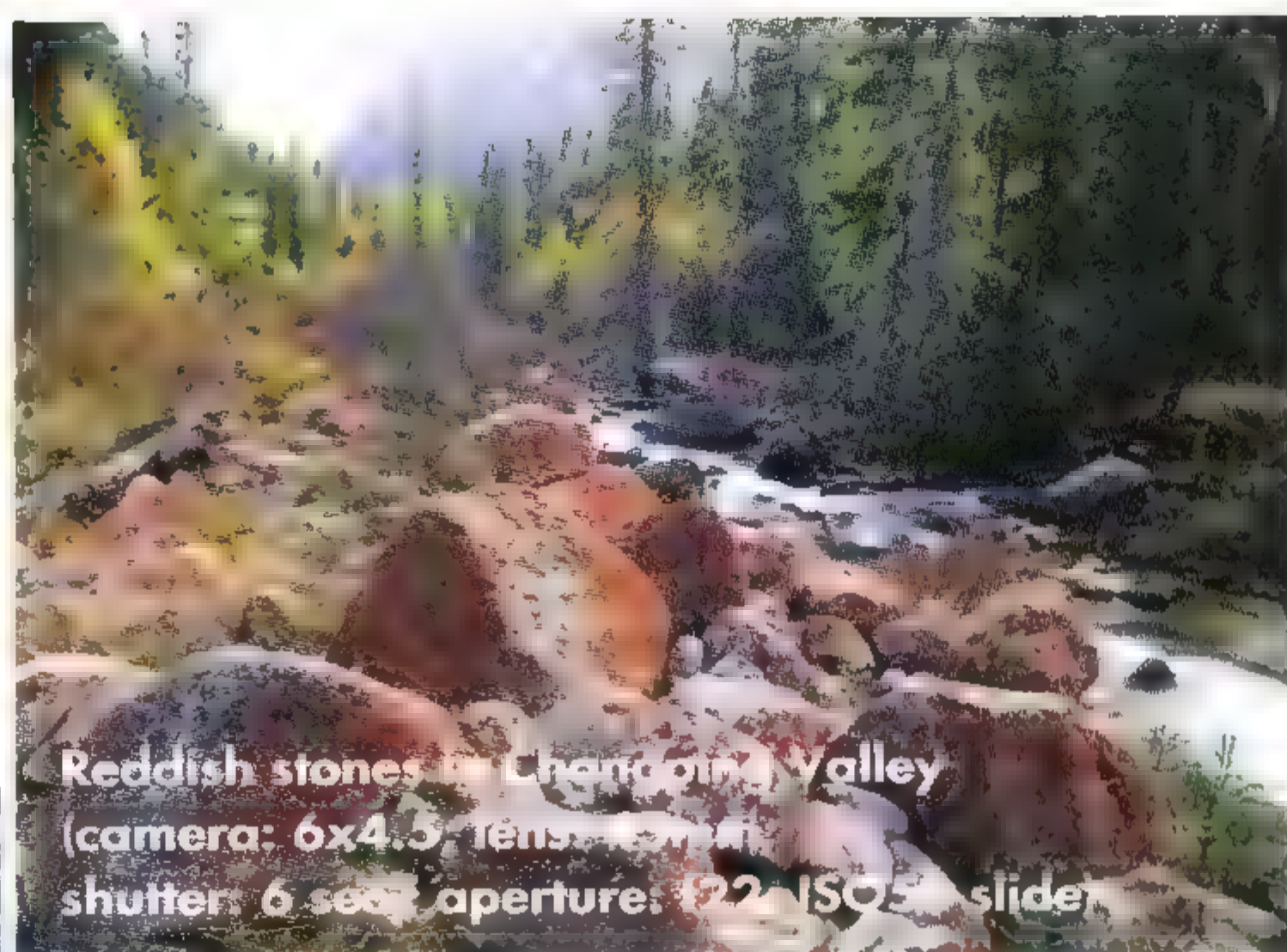
Itineraries

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Day 11 | (cont'd from Day 10) Kangding → Chengdu |
| Day 12 | Chengdu → Wolong → Miaobiliang → Rilong Town |
| Day 13 | Rilong Town → Twin Bridges Valley → Rilong Town |
| Day 14 | Twin Bridges Valley → Changping Valley → Muluozi → Rilong Town |
| Day 15 | Lake Valley → Rilong Town |

Transportation

Take a bus to Xiaojin County at the Chengdu Ximen (West Gate)

Bus Terminus, and get off at Rilong Town. Fare: about 40 yuan. Travellers are not allowed to ride horse to Shuangqiaogou (Twin Bridges Valley), therefore they have to hire a car at Rilong Town. The fees is about 150~200 per day. While the cost of riding horse in the valley is 100 yuan per person. Remember to confirm the destination and price with horse owner before setting off.



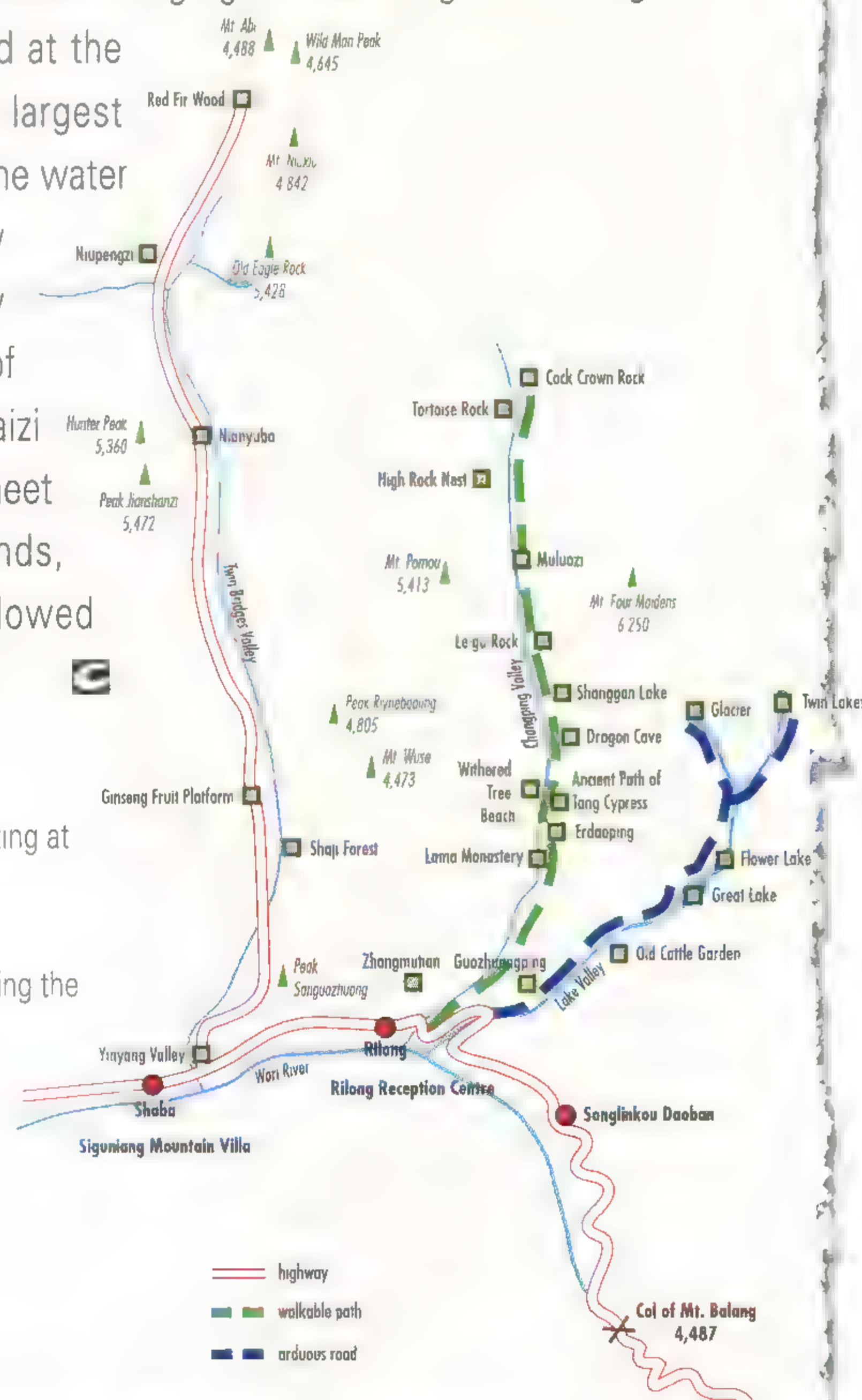
Reddish stones in Changping Valley
(camera: 6x4.5; lens: 160mm; shutter: 6 sec; aperture: f22; ISO: slide)

34.8 km long with a newly opened cement highway to the bottom of the valley. This is also the area where you will have the most convenient transportation, best scenery, and largest number of tourists.

Changpinggou — Having a length of 29 km, the valley boasts high mountains and deep valleys with dense virgin forest everywhere. Walking along the plank way, and after passing a land of reddish rocks, we suddenly saw a vast grassland. This was the most beautiful spot—Muluozhi. It is surrounded by snow-capped mountains on three sides, a crystal clear stream zigzags on the grassland, forming a harmonic natural scene.

Haizigou — Stretching 19.2 km, Haizigou (Lake Valley) is formed by more than 10 alpine lakes, Guozhuangping is a natural stage, every fourth day of the fifth lunar month, men and women, old and young will gather here to have various celebrating activities, such as bonfire parties and singing of folk songs. Crossing

Guozhuangping we arrived at the Great Lake (Dahaizi), the largest one in Changping Valley. The water of the lake was extremely clear and alpine yellow ducks fled on the surface of the lake frequently. Huahaizi (Flower Lake) was a vast sheet of marshes and grasslands, where several streams flowed between them.



A highland farm in Lake Valley
(camera: 6x4.5; lens: 160mm; shutter: 0.7 sec; aperture: f22; exposure compensation: +1/3EV; ISO50 slide)

Accommodation

Mt. Four Maidens Hotel: 400 yuan/ room; Mt. Four Maidens Hostel: 500 yuan/ room; Rilong Hunters Peak Hotel: 320 yuan/ room.

Experiences

Mt. Four Maidens — Located in Rilong Township of Xiaojin County at Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. The mountain covers an area of 2,000-plus sq km, including Mt. Four Maidens (6,250 metres above sea level and is the second highest mountain in Sichuan Province) and other mountains.

Shuangqiaogou — Shuangqiaogou (Twin Bridges Valley) is

Tips:

1. Miaobiliang is one of the best places to enjoy the panorama of Mt. Four Maidens. The mountain appears most enchanting at dusk sunlight.
2. As recommended by the locals, Muluozhi is the most beautiful scenic spot in Changpinggou.
3. There are no lodging place in Changpinggou nor Haizigou. Travelers better prepare tents and sleeping bags before entering the scenic area. It is a good chance to embrace the Mother Nature.
4. Guozhuangping is another ideal site to snoot the panorama of Mt. Four Maidens.

Admissions:

Twin Bridges Valley: 40 yuan; Lake Valley: 30 yuan; Changping Valley: 35 yuan.

LANDSCAPES

BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE THREE GORGES

Photos & article by
Huang Yanhong



As time ticks away and China's legendary Three Gorges face great changes in the name of progress, I knew a chance to take a Victoria Cruise to the Three Gorges this autumn was one I couldn't pass up. The route would take me from Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province in Central China, to Chongqing Municipality in Southwest China.

Since it was the summer, I didn't take a coat, but I regretted it, because this year it was quite cool during the week of August 8. Just before I went aboard, I took a quick walk to the pedestrian area in Hankou of Wuhan. It was a lovely street complete with bronze statues on both sides and fashion boutiques, department stores and billboards lining the street.

As I arrived for my cruise that evening, women dress in festive clothing were dancing to welcome us aboard. Most of the travellers were westerners. Our boat, Victoria Cruise No. 7, was launched this March. We set sail at 8 p.m., with me on deck, watching as Wuhan faded into the evening mist.

Reaching the Yueyang Tower

At 8 a.m. on the next morning, we arrived at Chenglingji (projecting rock dock) in Yueyang City in Hunan Province. It is one of the three famous projecting rock docks on the Yangtse River and the only port along the Yangtse for Hunan Province.

From the boat, we were taken to Yueyang Tower by bus where we happily climbed the tower to view Dongting Lake and Junshan Island floating in the mist

1. Tourists gather outside the Yangzi Bar to appreciate the Three Gorges
2. Dancers dressed in traditional clothes welcome visitors at port
3. The brilliant, sophisticated lobby of the Victoria Cruise





and rain. Our tour guide explained in English the historical background of the tower and he quoted Fan Zhongyan (989-1052) a famous Song Dynasty scholar and official who said, "You must always worry before the world feels worry, and only feel happy after seeing that the world is happy."

Back at the boat, we attended a seminar on Chinese medicine and *Taijiquan* (or Tai Chi, a kind of traditional Chinese shadow boxing). Dr. Wu lectured on traditional Chinese medicine, such as acupuncture and massage and answered probing questions from the tourists.

Passing Through a Narrow Lock

On the third day, the ship passed the locks at Gezhou Dam early in the morning. The ship had a contest to guess the exact time Victoria passed through the lock. We lined up to pass the No. 1 and 2 locks; they were each 34 metres wide. But the Victoria chose the narrowest lock, No. 3, just 18 metres wide.

Lead by the skillful captain, we entered with just one metre of water on both sides. The lock at the lower reach closed, and water began to fill in. In seven minutes, the water level had risen rapidly to 20 metres, equal to the upper reach. Finally the upper reach lock opened and our ship cruised through at 7:40 a.m. The winner of the contest was just two minutes off.

After the lunch, the rain stopped and the weather was perfect. We passed the picturesque Xuanguan (Hanging Coffins), Nanjinguan

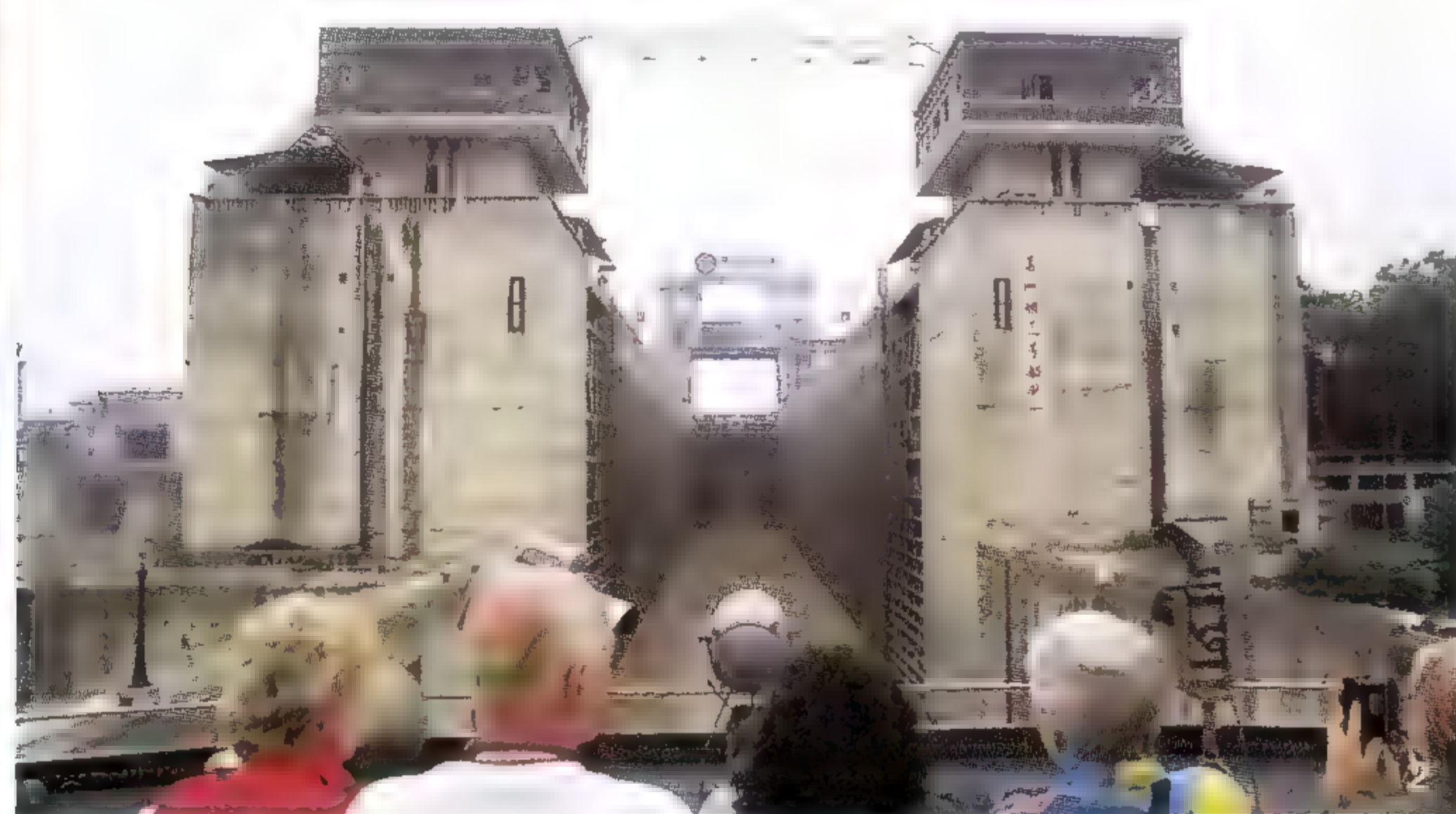
passes and Huangling Temple, and finally entered the Three Gorges at about 1 p.m. The spectacular view was finally within sight.

Sandouping Becomes a Tourist Hub

The cruise soon reached Sandouping, the exact location of the Three Gorges Dam. By 2009, the Three Gorges Dam will be the world's largest hydro-electrical power plant costing a total of 230 billion RMB (US\$27.8 billion). The dam will stretch 2,335 metres in total length, and will have a water storage capacity of 33.9 billion cubic metres.

On the way, we passed the locks under construction. As explained by the tour guide, ships weighing 3,000 tons or more have to spend about two hours passing five locks, while small-sized boats may take only 10 minutes to pass the lock on an electronic lift.

We got landed and travelled to Tanziling Terrace, the best spot to view the Three Gorges Project. Though it was raining, there still a lot of



tourists. The only view of the construction we could catch were dim shadows of the dam and a few large cranes.

After the completion of the dam, the water level at Xiling Gorge will rise to 100~110 metres. Famous historical locations such as the hometown of Wang Zhaojun, one of the Four Famous Beauties in ancient Chinese history, and many former sites from the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280) will be submerged. I was able to see the Temple of Qu Yuan (340-277 B.C.), the patriotic poet remembered during the Dragon-Boat Festival. The homes around it have been dismantled. The temple seemed unchanged, but there were no visitors inside. Years ago, the temple was crowded with tourists and several ships were berthed at the port. No more.

We also passed the 12 most celebrated peaks in the Wuxia Gorge; I but stayed in my room to escape the cold. The view passed by me silently.

Amazing Painting in Snuff Bottles

That afternoon the ship held a seminar on painting inside snuff bottles. The western tourists listened to the instructions given by an artist from Hebei and asked questions. We watched entranced as the artist painted with a tiny hooked brush inside a snuff bottle. Part of the picture was finished after 30 minutes. The travellers were all astonished. It would take two days to finish the whole picture. It had taken him seven days to finish painting a Giant Panda in another snuff bottle, and two months for



one inside an even bigger glass bottle, which was sold for US\$2,500.

That afternoon a kite seller was also aboard. His exquisite kites were all made by his parents who lived in Weifang in Shandong Province, a city known as "the hometown for kites." While majoring in English at the Wuhan University, he spends his summer vacations selling kites on the cruise.

A Glance of the Lesser Three Gorges

We toured the Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning River on the fourth day. We boarded a small boat at a port in Wushan County. The boat was covered to prevent rain from coming in. We could only appreciate the misty vista through an obscure window. At one point, the rain lightened and the cover was lifted, and a 70-year-old man on the tour walked to the front of the boat to take in the beautiful scene.

Miss Zhao, the tour guide, graduated from the Sichuan Medicinal Institute. She quit her job as a doctor to become a tour guide in her hometown instead. She said she was very satisfied with her job.

Soon, our boat entered the gap between the cliffs of Bawu Gorge. There we could see the Luo Family Village dating back 400 years. It was built on the top of the cliffs by a landlord who wanted to create an ideal environment for his son to study. It was too remote and difficult for one to go down the hill. I wondered if that son ever became a successful candidate.

At a turn with a turbulent current, most tour groups have to go ashore here and cross over the hill. Here local hawkers have set up a row of booths with colourful souvenirs. Though our boat did not stop here, handicrafts were also sold on board.

Later that day, we saw a few demolished villages. It was here that the ancient town of Dachang was removed. What pity I had missed it.

As we entered Dicui Gorge, someone screamed, "Monkey!" Looking up, more than a hundred monkeys jumped around. Miss Zhao was also surprised to see so many of them.

The water level of the Lesser Three Gorges is expected to rise 50~95 metres. The water level at Longmen Gorge will have the greatest rise, making it seven metres higher than Longmen Bridge. Scenic spots such as Mount Magui and Panda Cave will be permanently covered.

Huge Change in Qutang Gorge

After the three-hour tour to the Lesser Three Gorges, we returned to the Victoria and headed to Qutang Gorge.

It was still raining and I couldn't help but notice little white pieces floating on the Yangtse. I realized they were pieces of garbage and it was so sad to see such a great river of China polluted with so much rubbish.

The water coverage area of Qutang Gorge will be the least among the Three Gorges. However there will still be great changes to its appearance. Sheer cliffs, bare rocks, scattered stone carvings and antique plank roads have already gradually disappeared. Soon all the relics will be gone. Remembering this, I immediately took out my camera and took some pictures of these remains of heritage.

When the hydro-electrical power plant is built, the water level of Qutang Gorge will increase by 88 metres. In addition to the loss of many scenic spots, the stunning landscape of the gorge will be also be largely affected.

"The Fengjie People Welcome You"

Leaving Qutang Gorge, we saw Baidicheng (White Emperor City) and then the Fengjie County Seat. The ruins showed that the city would soon

1. The precipitous Dicui Gorge of the Lesser Three Gorges along the Daning River
2. Passing the lock at Gezhou Dam is a must on the trip
3. An artist showing his painting of the Three Gorges to tourists
4. The Yunziling View-watching Terrace is the highest point to view the Three Gorges Project
5. Foreigners are interested in painting pictures inside snuff bottles



be covered as well. The once crowded ancient city gate had been abandoned, though the port at the bottom was still in business. Banners on the ships were written with Chinese characters that said "The People of Fengjie Welcome You." I was moved by the locals still worked so hard knowing that their home would soon change.

That evening we gathered in the Conference Room on the ship to watch an artist, surnamed Tang, a master in Chinese painting and western painting. Almost all of his works were about the Three Gorges. He had travelled thousands of metres deep to paint different views of the gorge. At the seminar, he showed us two rolls of drawings of the Three Gorges.

The artist opened a gallery on the third floor of the ship, which was welcomed by tourists. He continued to paint while answering questions from the audience. On the last day of the trip, he told me that he had sold many paintings, including the biggest one — a painting that sold at US\$2,500.

The Removal of Zhang Fei Temple

While eating dinner, we passed an ancient temple. It was the Temple of Zhang Fei. Zhang was the smallest among three sworn brothers — Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei — who appeared in the Chinese classic the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. This temple would also be flooded, but it was planned to be rebuilt on a new site. I couldn't help feeling it just wouldn't be the same, for the authentic feeling of this historic site would no longer be there.

The Temple of Zhang Fei is located at an area below 175 metres below sea level. According to plans, it will be moved to Xiaonantuo, opposite the Yunyang New County Seat.

That night the ship held a party. The performers were all born singers and dancers. Even the ship employees all performed on stage, including a traditional fashion show displaying the clothing of different dynasties in China. There were also dance performances by ethnic minorities such as the Dais and Uygurs, and a Tai Chi Fist demonstration. The funniest part of the evening was playing "catching the chair," where seven of us had to fight for six seats.



Hanging Coffins Preserved for 2,000 Years

On the fifth day, our ship arrived in Wanzhou, the last time we would be ashore. The tour guide from Wanzhou was a hospitable man, who sang very well. He sang a folk song about love and won deafening applause. An old man even recorded his singing.

The county has also been undergoing large-scale removal. Two-thirds of the old district area has to be removed. Ruins of buildings dotted the landscape, and slogans that reminded people to seize the opportunity to resettle and develop western China to build up a new Wanzhou County were everywhere.

During our short stay in Wanzhou, I was most impressed by a museum. The hanging coffins inside have a history of over 2,000 years and have been the most famous spot in Wanzhou. Some tourists boldly touched a coffin, for legend says that this can promise one a good fortune. Inside the coffin are the bodies of a man and a woman. As there is a hole on the top of the woman's head, which archeologists believe show that she was killed and buried with the man.

There was also a saying that there are "no fat people in Wanzhou." As explained by the tour guide, the locals have to walk up the mountainous areas in the county. On average, each person has to walk up 400-plus steps. How can they be fat?

Early at 6:30 a.m. on the sixth day, I went to the ship's Yangzi Bar to see the tourists learn *Taijiquan*. The learners had improved much and moved step by step accurately, except for an old man with a white moustache. He might have been too nervous.

At last we arrived in Chongqing just before the noon. The attendants stood outside and bade us farewell. We said goodbye to the Three Gorges, too.

Translated by Kristy Wong



Tips for the Traveller

◆ Victoria Cruise Fees (Standard Suites)

Route	Peak Season	Off Season	Tour on shore
Chongqing — Shanghai	USD1,520	USD1,400	USD180
Wuhan — Shanghai	USD760	USD700	USD80
Chongqing — Wuhan	USD760	USD680	USD75

* Peak season: April, May, September, October

* Off season: March, June, July, August, November, December

◆ Contacts

1. **New York General Office** : 57-08 39th Ave. woodside, N.Y. 11377
Tel: (212) 818 1680
E-mail: contact@victoriacruises.com
2. **Chongqing Office** : 3/F, 3 Xinhua Road, Yuzhong District, Chongqing
Tel: (23) 6371 3800
E-mail: victoria@public.cta.cp.cn
3. **Taiwan Office** : 8 of 12F, 303 Dunhua Road North, Taipei
Tel: (2) 2547 2626
E-mail: ava@victoriacruises.com.tw

◆ Itineraries

Chongqing — Shanghai (8 days/ 7 nights, downstream)

Day 1: Depart from Chongqing at 9 a.m. to the "Ghost City" of Fengdu (or visit hanging coffins in Wanzhou); Day 2: Pass Qutang Gorge, Lesser Three Gorges or Shennong Stream; Day 3: Visit the Three Gorges Dam; Day 4: Tour Wuhan; Day 5: Visit Mt. Lushan or Jingdezhen, the "hometown for porcelain"; Day 6: Visit Mt. Huangshan or Mt. Jiuhua; Day 7: Visit Confucius Temple in Nanjing or the Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and Lesser West Lake in Yangzhou; Day 8: Arrive Shanghai.

Shanghai — Wuhan (5 days/ 4 nights, upstream)

Day 1: Depart from Shanghai at 5 p.m.; Day 2: Visit Lesser West Lake, Nanjing Confucius Temple, or Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen; Day 3: Visit Mt. Huangshan or Jingdezhen; Day 4: To Mt. Lushan or Mt. Jiuhua; Day 5: Arrive Wuhan.

Chongqing — Wuhan (4 days/ 3 nights, downstream)

Day 1: Depart from Chongqing at 9 a.m. to Fengdu or Wanzhou; Day 2: Visit Qutang Gorge, Lesser Three Gorges or Shennong Stream; Day 3: Visit Three Gorges Dam; Day 4: Arrive Wuhan.

Wuhan — Chongqing (6 days/ 5 nights, upstream)

Day 1: Set off at Wuhan at 8 p.m.; Day 2: Visit Yueyang Tower; Day 3: Visit Xiling Gorge, Wuxia Gorge, and Three Gorges Dam; Day 4: Lesser Three Gorges or Shennong Stream, Qutang Gorge; Day 5: Visit Fengdu or Wanzhou; Day 6: Arrive Chongqing.



The Dismantling of Scenic Spots

During the trip, I saw so many tourists. They all wanted to see the original Three Gorges before the second phase of the dam project. Amid the natural scenery, marks of 135 and 175-metre water levels could easily be seen on both sides of the Yangtse.

This coming June, when the water level reaches 135 metres, scenic spots such as the Temple of Zhang Fei and the Lesser Three Gorges will be engulfed by water. When the water level rises to 175 metres after the completion of the third phase, 650 km of the Yangtse River covering the Three Gorges Dam to Chongqing will rise from 20 metres to 110 metres, creating a highland lake. According to analysts, 39 historical scenic spots will be affected by the project with 25 of them permanently covered by water and 14 partly flooded.

Special thanks to the Victoria Cruises Inc. (Taiwan Office) and Taiwan Baofon International Travel Service (Tel: 2-6618 8899)

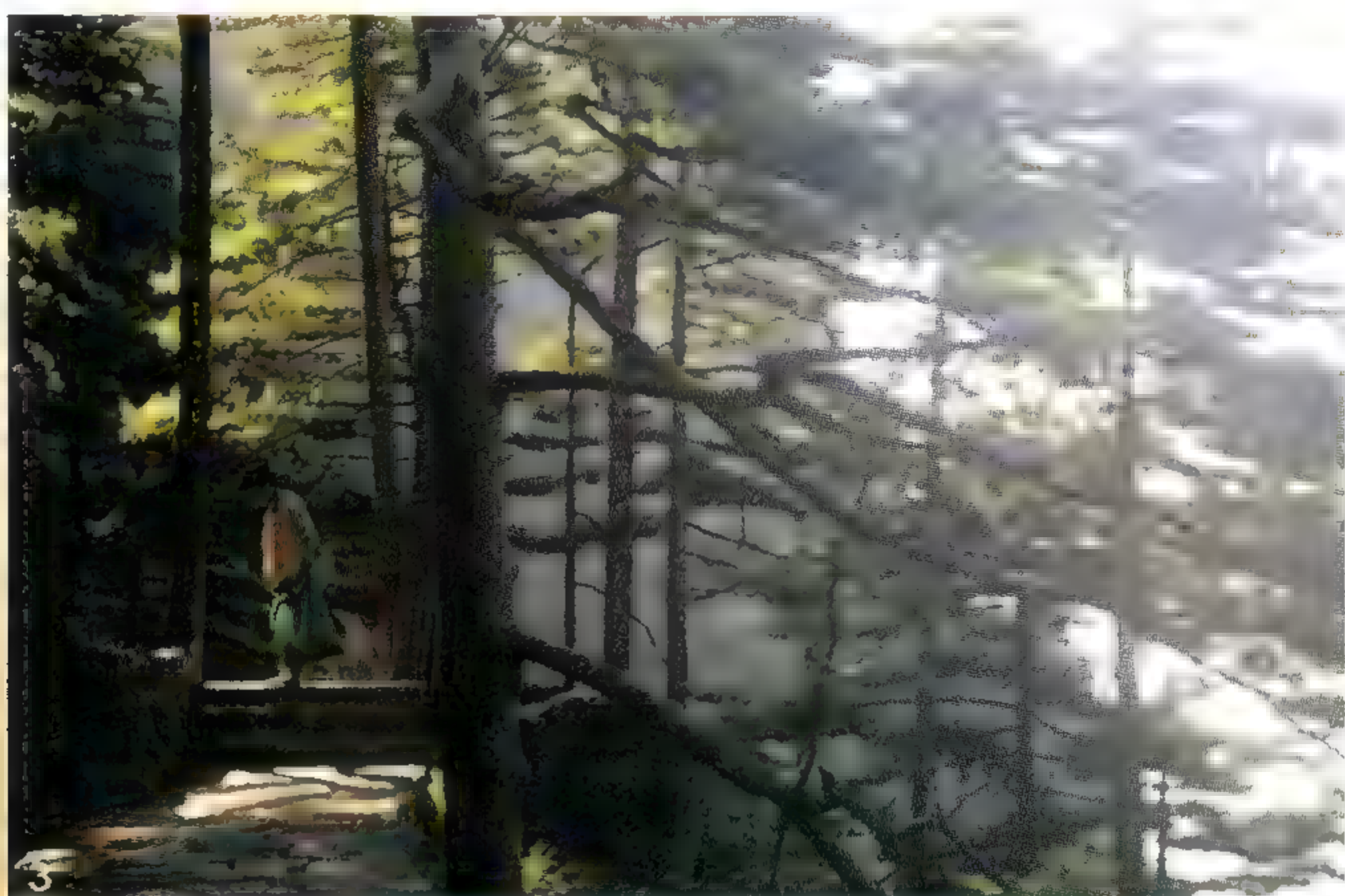
1. The podium at the top floor is ideal for sunbathing and sightseeing
2. Viewing the Yangtse in the sightseeing corridor on the fourth floor
3. Foreigners learn Chinese Tai Chi fists
4. The graveyard of a famous beauty, Xiao Qiao, as described in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*
5. After the completion of the second phase of the project, the landscape of Qutang Gorge will see great changes





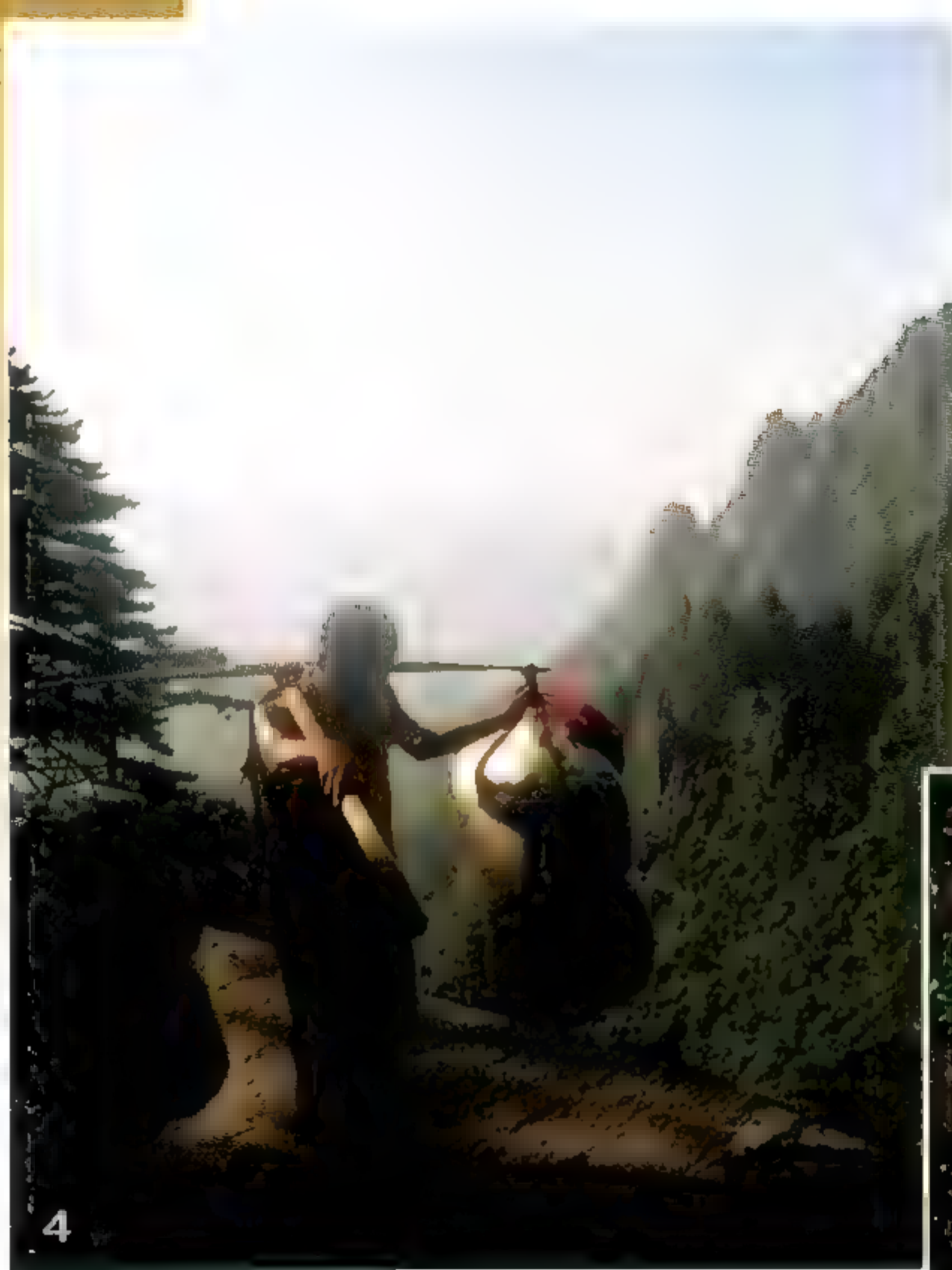
The Men in Yellow

"It's a tough job for sure, but at least the work environment is fantastic...." One could not deny it. Mt. Huangshan (Yellow Mountain), the place where Fang is working, has attracted visitors for the last thousands of year and its charms have been celebrated in countless poems. Even though it is my first visit to the "Yellow Mountain", I feel a strange familiarity with the scenic landscapes I discover. "No surprise," insists Fang, "for Chinese and Westerners alike, this blend of rocks and pine trees surrounded by clouds is reminiscent of traditional Chinese ink painting".



Before to ascend the mountain, I still wondered how a site so famous for its wild landscape would deal with a massive influx of visitors. I did not have to climb more than half an hour before to find out the answer: Huangshan has given birth to a small army of caretakers wearing, not surprisingly, yellow jackets. Fang is precisely one of these "men in yellow" hired by the park management; and whose duty ncludes both the preservation of the site and the supplying of the tourism industry.

Heavy responsibility that they bear, quite literally, on their shoulders. When I have met him, Fang was carrying supplies up and down the mountain, with the only strength of his legs, and a bamboo



pole as a way to balance the heavy weight. As I keep on climbing the eastern route, I realize there are dozen of other porters like him, some running down

show is off, the cleaners go in.

Here, they make sure that the area will look as natural and beautiful for tourists turning up the next day. And their efficiency is really above all expectations: At 10:00, there is nothing left of the sunrise rush.... As far as your eyes can see, Huangshan is a peaceful heaven of pristine nature.

Still, there is one thing that the men in yellow will not clean up. All around the summit area, one cannot help but notice thousands of small

lockers with love inscriptions in Chinese... As the tradition goes, each of them represents the symbolic will of a couple to seal their love forever. Ai Yi came all the way from Shanghai with her boyfriend to perform this ceremonial. "I'm going to study in Australia, and before being physically separated, we wanted to seal our commitment in an unforgettable way", says the resolute young lady.

Her eyes suddenly diving in the clouds gathering at the horizon, she adds "This is such a magical place, I'm confident the mountain is going to protect our love". After wishing good luck to Miss Yi, I finally left Huangshan thinking that all these lockers — bearers of hope, memories and love-were probably the best tribute to the challenging job of Fang and the other men in yellow.

while other ones, less lucky, are struggling to advance towards the summit area. A quick look at their baskets reveals that they are bringing up all the products necessary for the visitors staying on the summit: a lot of food, various drinks, and even some accommodation items.

If you doubt about the hardship of the walk involved, just ask other entrepreneurs who make a living by carrying people up the toughest sections of the track, using a chair bound on two big bamboo poles. Never mind this mode of transportation has been branded as decadent, it remains popular and profitable because of the sometimes terrible steepness of the stairways.

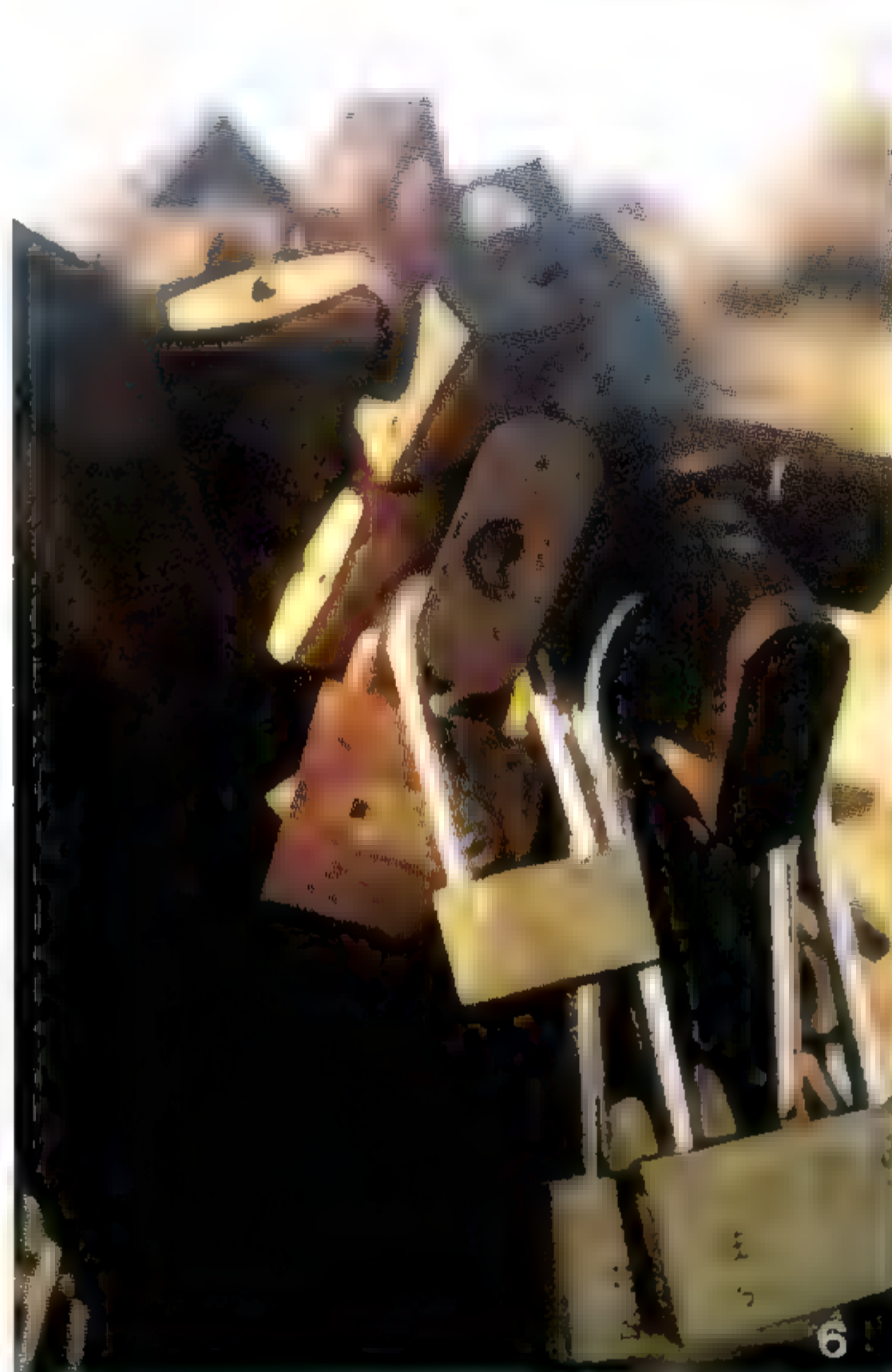
Difficult as the porters' job can be, the biggest challenge of the men in yellow lies elsewhere. Fang's workmates are also in charge of cleaning the place, arguably a huge task when you consider the number of people visiting the area. While the management does not publicize the official figures, there is a memorable way of assessing the scale of Huangshan's frequentation: attend the sunrise from the Bright Peak Area.

While the rest of the Middle Kingdom is deeply asleep, Huangshan is buzzing with hundreds of tourists hurrying themselves, in the dark, to the best viewing areas. As the sky grows brighter, the chaos unfolds and people start rushing all around, some getting lost, most of them making it to a nice point of view by hanging close to a sheer cliff or climbing-up to a pine tree.

When the red circle starts to appear, people whistle, clap and cheer-up loudly the sun to make it through the thick "sea of clouds". It might be a fair way from the lonely face-to-face expected with Mother Nature, but the landscape remains just as breathtaking. A sunrise at Huangshan is actually like going to the movies, with your own emotion enhanced by the similar feelings of the spectators surrounding you. And similarly to a cinema, as soon as the



1. Shade of a porter projected on a wall around the summit area. The heavy weight is carried thanks to the traditional balancing system made of bamboo poles
2. Private entrepreneurs carry people who want to enjoy the sights without experiencing the hardship of the ascension
3. The cleaners hired by the park management, recognized by their yellow jackets, can be seen in the most remote areas of Huangshan
4. This porter is arriving close to the summit area, on a platform where tourists usually stop to enjoy the majestic landscape
5. A porter climbing up the eastern steps with a big lot of supplies. This route can take up to three hours and is sometimes very steep
- 6, 7. These lockers are left all around the summit area by couples who want to symbolize that their love is definitively sealed. They are also a tribute to the magnificence of Huangshan



HK MOSAIC





Take a Walk on Lamma Island

Photo supplied by Sukling Chau

There may only be one reason to love a place, and that could be any reason I tell in town with Lamma Island at heart. It was just because the island offers more than just a place for walking and enjoying of views and fishing villages. Thanks to the large number of foreign residents there, the place is brimming with Western influences.

Located in southwestern Hong Kong, with an area of 11.6 sq km, Lamma is the third largest island in the territory. Taking the half-hour ferry ride from the Tai O or the Hong Kong to Lamma Ferry, you can escape the hustle and bustle of our life. When you see three paid chimneys appear amidst the azure sky and sea, it means you have arrived at Lamma Island.

There is no polluting masspersion on the island, but there are winding paths over hills and beaches.

The walk from Yung Shue Wan to Sok Kwu Wan is the best route.



榕樹灣
Yung Shue Wan

天后廟
Tin Hau Temple

電力站
Power Station

洪聖爺灣泳灘
Hung Shing Yeh Beach

觀景亭
View-watching Pavilion

石礦場
Quarry

索罟灣
Sok Kwu Wan (Picnic Bay)

模達灣
Mo Tat Wan

蘆鬚城泳灘
Lo So Shing Beach

淺角山
Ling Kok Shan

天后廟
Tin Hau Temple

石排灣
Shek Pai Wan

山地塘
Shan Tei Tong (Mount Stenhouse)

東澳灣
Tung O Wan

深灣
Sham Wan



Step 1

Going ashore at Yung Shue Wan and walking along the coast, I saw low-built homes densely erected on the slope. In recent years, many tranquility-lovers, especially Westerners attracted by the undisturbed atmosphere and low-rents, have settled here. No wonder foreigners are seen everywhere. Numerous exotic shops and bars make this place like a European town.

Step 2

The most eye-catching construction is the modern power station which generates electricity by burning coal. With strict controls, the plant does not hugely



Step 3

affect the island's environment. The three high-rise chimneys take on the great responsibility of supplying electricity for Hong Kong Island. The 200-metre Hung Shing Yeh Beach, the longest beach on the island, is located beside the power plant. The beach, with its soft sand and clean water, attracts lots of foreigners and visitors for parties, dancing and drinking beer on weekends.

Walking further and turning right, one will reach the Tin Hau (Goddess of the Sea) Temple, which has been here for more than 130 years. Another temple can be found at Sok Kwu Wan. Walking from Tin Hau Temple, one can reach the Hung Shing Yeh Bay, an ideal beach for swimming with the

safety of a shark net. Under the shade of the trees on the beach, there are barbecue stoves. It offers the twin pleasures of swimming and the enjoyment of outdoor cooking.

Step 4

Ascending the hill along the trail, I passed Hung Shing Yeh Bay and saw the viewing pavilion far away, the best place to overlook Cheung Chau and Lantau, two other outlying islands in Hong Kong. Most tourists take a rest or take photos here. Leaving the pavilion, one can choose a faster, but harder trail, or a comparatively more comfortable, but longer route to Sok Kwu Wan.



Step 5

One arrives at Lo So Shing very soon where banana trees are planted on both sides of the trail descending the hill. Nearby are an old primary school and the former site of a farm.

Lamma Island was a strategic industrial town in the Tang Dynasty (618 — 907). Inhabitants at that time baked shells to make lime. Nowadays, two lime stoves can be found in front of the school, and another seven are spread on the beaches nearby. They are the best witnesses to the long history here.

Lo So Shing Beach is also a good place for swimming. Though more remote than Hung Shing Yeh Bay, there are still lifeguards in summer.

Leaving Lo So Shing, one may see a branch road. Turn left at the first intersection and right at another and one can reach Sok Kwu Wan later.

If you want to go deeper, you can walk to the south, where a 1,100-foot hill, the highest in Lamma Island, is located. The beaches at the bottom of the hill are rarely visited by people. You can reach them by taking a boat.

Step 6

However, if your time and energy are limited, you may walk eastward from the viewing pavilion. Crossing two hills, you can see a cliff that was previously a quarry. The HKSAR Government plans to rebuild this area as a scenic spot. On the way, you may have to pass a part where the reeds grow higher than people.

Standing on a higher point on the hill, you can see over to Aberdeen located on the south of Hong Kong Island, as well as the ferries at the container port in western Kowloon.

Lamma Island was occupied by the Japanese during the Second World War. The trail to Sok Kwu Wan passes a dark cave. It is said that during the war, this was where the Kamikaze suicide squad of the Japanese air force hid and stored batteries. Hence its name Cave Kamikaze. Very few people dare to enter the cave because it is dark and damp inside.

Step 7

No sooner had I passed Cave Kamikaze, than I saw the famous seafood street in Sok Kwu Wan. Opposite the bay is another colourful Tin Hau Temple. The temple always attracts lots of incense-burners from the island as well as from afar. It seems Tin Hau is not only the guardian god of fishermen, but is also respected by modern city dwellers.

The last, but most exciting part is, of course, to taste the seafood. Seafood restaurants built on stilts in the water create a unique sight on the island. Net cages that fishermen use to breed fish

are set in a large network, while a breeze blows from the sea. It is marvelous to savour a seafood feast in such an environment.

The pier is just a few steps from these restaurants, where tourists crowd and wait for the ferries to Central Hong Kong or Aberdeen. And my walk on Lamma Island came to an end.

Previous page

(big): Children enjoy playing in the water on Lamma Island

(small): Lamma Island offers a tranquil and natural environment

1. One can overlook Cheung Chau and Lantau Island at the view-watching pavilion



2. The landmark of Lamma Island — the three huge chimneys

3. The Goddess of the Sea must be very pleased to live in such a peaceful environment

4. Seafood restaurants built on wooden stilts form a unique scene in Sok Kwu Wan

5. A prayer ceremony is held near the Tin Hau Temple

6. Pilgrims from afar burn incense to bless their families



Notes on Hiking in Hong Kong

- ① Avoid hiking alone. Always go with others;
- ② Pay attention to the weather forecasts, especially the warnings given by the Hong Kong Observatory;
- ③ Prepare enough clothes and other necessities, such as maps, compass, food, water, torch, wet weather gear, and mobile phone;
- ④ A mobile phone is the fastest means of asking for help. However, mobile phones may be unconnected due to limited coverage of the telecommunication network in some remote mountainous areas. Also make sure the phone is fully charged. Emergency numbers: 999/ 112; Hill fire centre: 2720 0777;
- ⑤ Never light fires or smoke in camping sites or unsupervised barbecue sites. When there is a hill fire, escape to a place upwind of the blaze so it does not blow towards you. Since landslides may occur after heavy rains or storms, tourists should avoid dangerous areas on the hills;
- ⑥ In case no mobile phone is available, one can use the international mountain disasters signals: (1) Send a long signal every ten seconds for six times in one minute. Pause for one minute, and repeat the same signals again and again until rescuers arrive; (2) Make lights with reflective mirrors or metal pieces, or wave bright-coloured clothes; (3) Turn on the torch to make signals at night; (4) If you are on flat land, try to pile up rocks or branches to form three large letters: SOS.



The Ancient Town of Huangyao

Photos & article by Li Yuxiang



During the journey, we saw a simple old stage in a pool of light from the setting sun. Dating from the Ming Dynasty, it was built of wood, bricks and stone. Despite numerous renovations, it has still kept its simple and generous proportions. The hill-shaped stage has two parts: the front section is a square

Ming Dynasty Stage Still Stands Firm

Huangyao lies in the northeast of Zhaoping County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on the lower reaches of the Lijiang River. Three of us made the seven-hour drive from Shenzhen to Huangyao. We arrived at dusk to be greeted by the sight of towering karst mountains that

made me feel we were in Guilin.

In the village, we saw a simple old stage in a pool of light from the setting sun. Dating from the Ming Dynasty, it was built of wood, bricks and stone. Despite numerous renovations, it has still kept its simple and generous proportions. The hill-shaped stage has two parts: the front section is a square

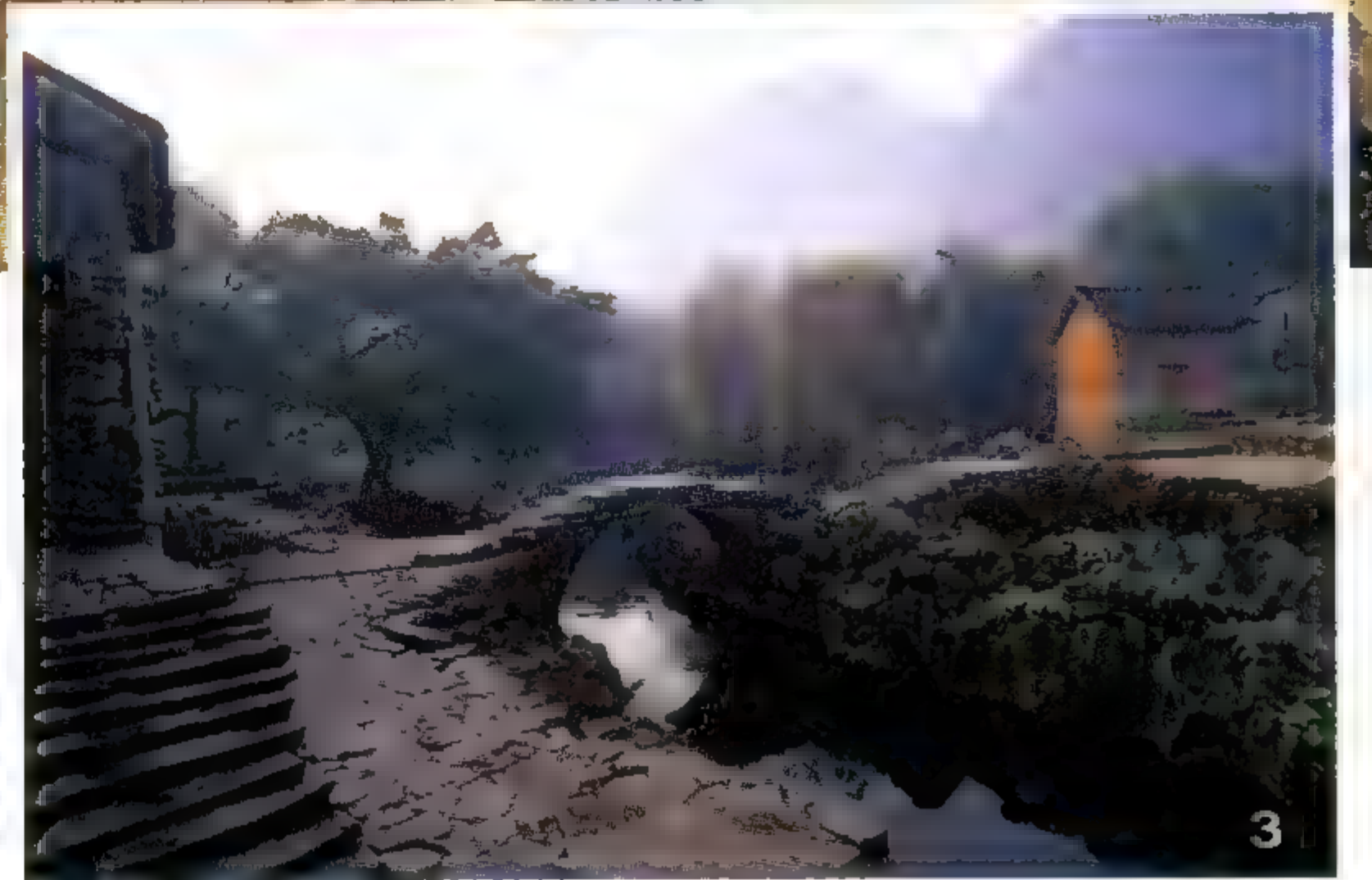
proscenium flanked with low wooden railings, its foundation built with large pieces of bluestone. The central stage is floored with wooden boards, and has a wooden ceiling carved with simple patterns of flowers, grass and insects. The back part is separated from the proscenium by a wooden partition. There is a screen door for performers and a carved window at each side of the back stage. I was told there used to be four big vats full of water at the four corners of the stage, making the voice more resonant. What a bright idea our ancestors had!



Unusual Bluestone Street

I woke up the next morning to broad daylight. Breathing the cool refreshing air deeply, I walked into the village. Tall old trees filled the sky, but the sun's rays peeped through the gaps between the leaves and spread warm light on to a stream, its banks lined with lush bamboo groves. Tendrils of mist hung over the water, turning it into a fairyland. A Ming-dynasty path of stone steps, or "jumping steps" as the locals call them, crossed the stream. Some girls were

washing by the stream and gaggles of geese and ducks dabbled for food in the ripples. I walked on across the Zuolong Stone Bridge and came upon the small and exquisite Zuolong Temple. Next was the solid defensive watchtower with its stockade door of a type common in the Guangdong area.



1. The old town looks like a garden dotted with these old banyan trees and natural rocks
2. Time-honoured stores stand in a row as if to remind visitors of their former prosperity
3. A quiet morning in the old town



Once the crossbar is in place, the door is impregnable. The watchtower might have been the result of the strained relationship between the indigenous people and the Hakka people when they first came to Huangyao. Huangyao first appeared in records during Kaibao's reign (968—976) in the Song Dynasty. At that time the only residents in this area of a few square kilometres were two families, the Huangs and the Yaos, who lived in what is now the town's Zhongxing Street. In the 300 years

until the Yuan Dynasty, family names in the town increased to eight, but the Huangs and the Yaos were still the majority, and Huangyao Town was named after them.

The streets in the old town are very unusual — paved with bluestone, they still have a blue glitter after hundreds of years. The main bluestone street meanders alongside the Yaojiang River for one kilometre. In the shape of a blue dragon, the street has eight branches representing the eight feet of the dragon. The old stores

flanking the main street boomed during the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China. The Hakka people brought advanced technology with them and engaged in oil pressing, sericulture, spinning, weaving and making salted and fermented soya beans. They greatly promoted industry and commerce in the town and records show there used to be 200 stores along the main street, many still visible today.

Different Guangdong-style Ancestral Halls

In the small town of Huangyao, there are more than 10 ancestral halls in the Guangdong architectural style. Built by people arriving from Guangdong Province, they were meant to strengthen clan unity, and be places where prayers were recited for prosperity, and for a brighter business future. These ancestral halls make a special sight.

Walking along the bluestone street surrounded by rockeries and verdant bamboo groves, I felt as if I was in a big garden. These rockeries, just like the Taihu rocks, are all natural forms, unlike those in most gardens. Dotted here and there beside the lake, they blend in perfectly with the towering old trees, creating a harmonious backdrop for the quiet old houses. I especially enjoyed the scenery around the Xingning Temple. Set against Xianshan Mountain, the temple faces Zhenwu Mountain in front of which the Pearl River and Hengjiang River meet. It was built in the Wanli period (1573—1620) of the Ming Dynasty in a typical Guangdong style, and renovated during the Qing Dynasty. After a walk in the Zhenwu Pavilion beside the temple, pause in a little breeze and have a nice cool cup

of tea. Surrounded by green bamboo groves and fragrant osmanthus flowers you'll be the happiest person in the world.

I saw many elderly people, and women and children about, but few young people as most work out of town. There are quite a number of people around with a low IQ; when the Hakka first arrived they wouldn't marry the locals, and intermarriage lowered physical condition. This contributed indirectly to the town's decline. But the major reasons are difficult transportation and poor resources, causing the outward flow of people.

Watching the last rays of sunshine upon the variegated old walls, you could not help feeling sad that Huangyao really is getting old.



Translated by Yu Ling



1. Preparing salted fermented soya beans
2. A Huangyao woman carries her child home from the threshing ground
3. The old inscription board celebrating Guo's ancestor's birthday
4. The family inscription board with the decree of the Qing Emperor Guangxu
5. The beautiful landscapes of the old town





The *SANGEMAO*

— Special Tibetans

Photos & article by Wu Pingguan

The Sangemao people live scattered along the banks of the Taohe River in Lintan and Zhuoni counties, and east from there in the Bawa area of the Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province. Though Tibetan, the people of this tribe have their own way of life. Due to their complex tribal structure, their lifestyle, customs, housing and costumes are visibly different from those of most Tibetans, making them a unique branch. As the tribe's women sport a hair-do with three thick plaits, locals call them "Sangemao" in the local Chinese dialect, literally meaning "three bundles of hair". Hence the Sangemao tribe.

Origins of the Sangemao Tribe

The Sangemao tribe originated from the ethnic Qiang and Shu peoples of ancient times, who lived in northwestern China in the early Qin period (221—206 B.C.). Their many tribes mostly lived by hunting and farming, building their shelters alongside rivers and on grasslands. In the Qin and Han dynasties (206 B.C.—220), the Qiang comprised a loose nationality. During the long course of evolution, they gradually formed many large and small tribes and settled down along the Taohe River.

During Tang Dynasty times (618—907), the Tubo in present-day Tibet expanded eastward and wiped out the Qiang tribes one after another. The area along the Taohe River became a battleground between the Tubo and Tang troops. To strengthen their rule, the Tubo forced the Qiang people to wear Tubo dress, speak the Tubo language and provide supplies for its army. Many were made to till the land and raise stock for Tubo nobles. The peoples of the Tubo and the Qiang became assimilated and after the fall of Tubo rule, its soldiers stationed

in that area settled down and mixed well with the Qiang tribes leading to further assimilation of the ethnic groups. By the time of the Yuan (1206—1368) and Ming (1368—1644) dynasties, the tribes had evolved into the early Tibetan people of that area. To sum up, the Sangemao tribe is made up of descendants of migrants, Tubo troops and the indigenous Qiang inhabitants.

Headdress an Important Symbol

Our destination, a village in Chubu Township in Lintan County, is a typical Sangemao settlement. When we entered the government building in the township, we met the township head, Ma Zhiren. In his simply furnished office, he gave us a brief introduction to the Sangemao people and their lifestyle.

Drawn together by geographic locations and shared customs and lifestyles, the different ethnic groups there formed what he called a Sangemao Cultural Area covering 100 square kilometers with Chubu the



centre. It includes six townships with 96 villages scattered over Lintan and Zhuoni counties. About 3,000 households with a population of 27,000 live in this area.

Their headdress is one of the important symbols of the Sangemao people. The most common style is called a "Pomegranate Hat" — a round hat with a scalloped edge. Between every two semi-circles dangles a tiny piece of coral or a silvery pearl. Slung from both sides are two tassels reaching down to the wearer's chest with a tail hanging behind in the shape of a pomegranate. The brim of the hat is made of stiff cloth. The fabric of most such hats is pink or dark red satin with floral patterns. Another style is called the "Chimney Hat" because its top looks like a chimney. Beneath the "chimney" are two woollen flaps. Women like to adorn their headdress with strings of coral pearls. Their hair is plaited into three long thick strands. Girls tie their plaits with red threads. A married woman ties her middle plait with a red thread. The other two are bunched near her waist with the upper hair worn rather loose.

Clothes, Housing, Language and Food

Sangemao women like to wear green or blue gown, which is locally called "kaozi". Older women prefer black with a pink, vermillion or purplish red vest over the gown. Girls usually wear green gown with a red vest on the outside, bright red trousers and a woollen belt around

the waist. The uppers of their footwear are made of brocade. Men are fond of robes plus cloth coats, the bottom edge of which is tied with a red belt. Their clothes are quite similar to those of the local Han nationality in ancient time.

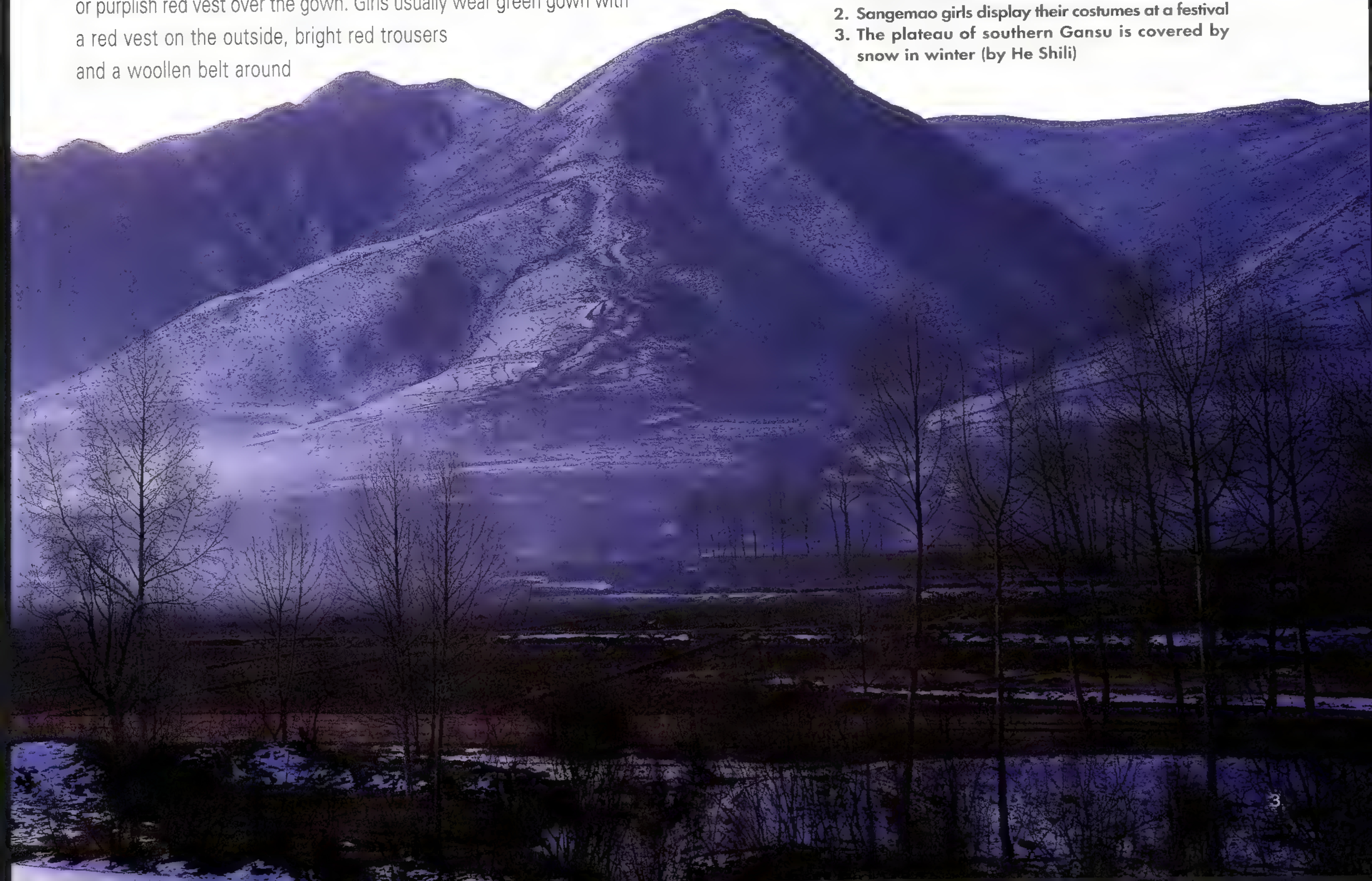
As the Sangemao people live in mountainous forests, their houses are all made of wood. To catch more sunshine, they usually face south.



The most popular of several designs is called a Shanzi house with five central bays and seven side bays including a grain storage area and a stable. The middle bays are fairly deep. They have three rows of posts, namely, eave posts, middle posts and back posts, each row four to five inches lower than the former. On the right side of the sitting room an enclave enshrines the statue of a god accompanied by bamboo arrows

wrapped with *hada* (long piece of silk used as greeting gift among Tibetans and Monglians), scripture scrolls and similar items. Cupboards, dressers and displays of pottery ware and such like line the western wall. A large brick bed is built against the eastern wall, close to the windows, and the stove at one end is separated from the bed by a 50 cm high wooden railing.

1. A century-old tree standing on the snowy slopes behind Zhuori Village makes an attractive scene
2. Sangemao girls display their costumes at a festival
3. The plateau of southern Gansu is covered by snow in winter (by He Shili)



The Sangemao people's language is a mixture of Tibetan, Chinese and Myanmar. It can be roughly divided into "Nongqu" (farmland) and "Hebian" (riverside) dialects, the former closer to the Tibetan language and the latter closer to Amdo.

Before the 1950s, the Sangemao people's staple food was barley, oats, beanmeal and potatoes, while flour was used only when there were visitors.

Today, wheat flour has become the chief staple, followed by barley, oats, beans, etc. People like to eat noodles and potatoes. Dishes are usually made of Chinese cabbages,

lotus greens and pork. At meals, people drink alcohol or tea.



Township called a meeting, it had to give at least three days notice in advance since villages like Zhuori were all deep in the mountains. The people used to live from forestry. But when tree felling was banned people turned to farming. After the introduction of scientific and advanced methods, crops grew well in this area. The net income per capita in 2002 was 1,039 yuan, 99 yuan more than for 1999.

COne Village Under Two Counties

The following day, we went to visit the village where Ma Zhiren was born. As he was familiar with the place, he volunteered to be our guide.

As we travelled through snow-clad mountain terrain, the valley in front of us opened out and a village came in sight. This was Zhuori Village. The administration of this small village, divided into two teams, was very peculiar. It contained 64 households; 25 households with 120 people belonged to Zhuoni County and the other 39 with 184 people belonged to Lintan County. Historically, this village was under the jurisdiction of two Tusi (hereditary headmen of ethnic groups in the

Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties). A village ruled by two local governments is extremely rare in China.

When Chubu



1. We were invited to sit on a brick bed and offered hot tea by the hospitable host
2. Colourfully dressed girls of the Sangemao tribe
3. The hair-style of Sangemao women is the symbol of the tribe
4. A daughter-in-law's plaits have to be cleaned and combed by her mother-in-law
5. The suspension bridge leading to the outside world offers new hope to locals



Team Leader Has a Big Responsibility

Ma Zhiren took us to meet Fan Xuewen, a team leader in the village. As Fan and his family could speak Mandarin, Ma thought it would be easier for us to communicate.

Fan was 38 years old and had a family of six. His wife was a representative of the people's congress for the county. His 19-year-old son was already married. The daughter-in-law was from the same village. Fan was a smart man, and the villagers had elected him as their team leader. His team had 39 households and 184 people, and he knew each of them well. He was very clear about his responsibilities as well as his goals. He helped them embrace scientific farming and overcome all the problems caused by nature and their remote location. His aim was for all villagers to achieve a better life through hard work.

Walking along a riverside covered with a thick layer of snow, we came to Fan's house. It was a typical Tibetan-style five-bay house with each bay the same size. The kitchen was at one end of the house and a storage room at the other. The central three bays formed a large sitting room. On its right was a bedroom whose brick bed was linked to the kitchen stove. On the left of the sitting room was a wing with three rooms. According to Fan, such buildings used less timber and were inexpensive.

As soon as we entered the sitting room, Fan invited us to sit on a large brick bed and quickly lit a brazier. Before long we felt rather warm and the tea over the brazier began to sizzle. Each of us was offered a cup but it was too bitter to drink. I was told they drank such tea two or three times a day believing it aided digestion and washed away all grease. It would refresh the drinker and eliminate fatigue. In the tea's wake came liquor. Fan began to offer toasts — his style uncommon in the Tibetan areas of southern Gansu. He took out a big glass, applying

some melted butter to both sides of it. Then he filled it up and holding it high over his head, offered it to each of us. "Liquor to a Tibetan is like willow to a camel," said Ma Zhiren while urging us to drink. I took the glass and, like the others, dipped the ring finger of my right hand in the liquor, held it up and flicked it towards a statue of a god three times, then gulped the liquor down. After my turn, I stealthily went out of the house.

A *Marriage at the Age of Eighteen*

In the courtyard, Fan's son was busy working and his wife was washing her hair with the help of her mother-in-law. Their child and several neighbourhood children were watching. Only then did I notice that the Sangemao women's three thick pigtails were artificial. I realised it would be quite impossible for women to grow such long hair. Not to mention the inconvenience when working in the fields and managing household chores.

When the 19-year-old son had a break, I asked him to accompany me for a stroll in the village. He was a reticent chap and said little on the way. It is quite common for Tibetan men to marry at 18. It seemed he had not realized that life's responsibilities were gradually shifting on to his shoulders, or that marriage required maturity. To me, he was merely a boy. I asked him if he had been to school. "Yes, I graduated from a primary school," he said. "Still want to go back to school?" "No, what's the point of studying?" he said lightly. But that made me heavy-hearted.

The sky, bright and fine a moment ago turned overcast. Obviously

snow would fall any minute. We waved goodbye to the Fan family and hurried away.

Our jeep struggled along a muddy mountain road. Zhuori Village was receding, however it left a good impression. Noticing we were all very quiet, the driver deliberately turned up the volume of the radio. A renowned Tibetan singer from southern Gansu was singing: "The snowy mountains have given me a strong physique; ancestors have given me a talent for singing and dancing; the grasslands have made me generous and magnanimous; my parents have given me a good voice and the people have given me endless melodies ..."

Tibetans are certainly a diligent and clever race. To my mind, their Sangemao people are especially so.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

Tips for the Traveller

Sangemao communities live in both Lintan and Zhuoni Counties. But there are fewer Sangemao people in Lintan and their settlements are quite far from the county seat of Lintan. I would therefore suggest going to Zhuoni since it stands by the Taohe River and the Sangemao people frequent the county seat of Zhuoni.

Transport Fly to Lanzhou either from Guangzhou or Shenzhen, or take a train from Guangzhou. Take either a deluxe bus or ordinary bus to Hezuo (they run several times a day). From there, a local bus takes you to Zhuoni.

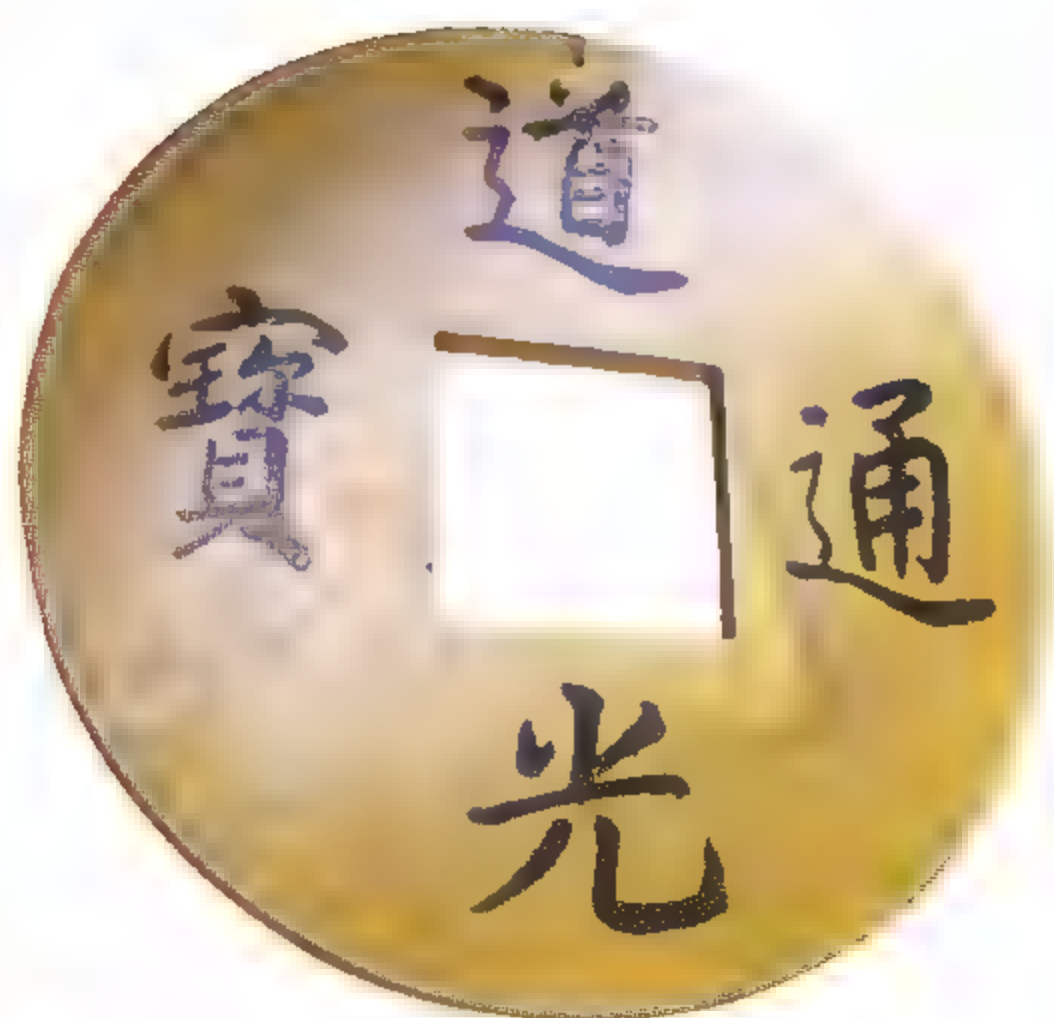
Accommodation There are several alternatives in the county seat of Zhuoni. The county government hostel is probably the best choice as it is in good condition. Standard rooms and three-bed rooms are available, and the price is reasonable. Once away from the county seat there are no hotels. In that case, you have to get help from the township governments or stay with locals.

Food There are many restaurants in the county seat of Zhuoni, providing inexpensive Sichuan, Muslim or Tibetan cuisine. But outside the county seat, you may find nothing but Tibetan food.

Dress The annual average temperature is 4.6 °C and average precipitation 584 mm. The annual frost-free period is 80 days. In summer, it might be quite hot during the day but is always cool in the early morning or at night. It is best to bring adequate clothes.

Nearby Scenic Spots Chanbao Temple in Zhuoni, the most ancient temple in Amdo Tibetan inhabited area in the county seat of which, has a 750 year-old history. The Lama Cliff is the quarry producing rocks for making Tao ink-stones, one of the three most famous types of ink-stones in China. The quarry dates back to the Song Dynasty (960 — 1279). In the new town of Lintan County, there is a town temple, ancient streets, the ancient entrance to the city wall and the Tomb of Madam Li. This city wall is the best preserved relic in Gansu Province.





Peitian

— A STRANGE LAND

Photos & article by Wang Min

We happened upon the strange land of Peitian completely by accident.

We got up very early that day. Travelling by car, we were planning to spend the long May Day holidays sightseeing among the earthen buildings of Yongding. At Pengkou Town, still 88 km from Longyan City, capital of western Fujian Province, a sign hanging overhead in the middle of State Highway 205 changed our plans. It said: "Ancient Hakka Communities, 18 km Away in Peitian."



2



Peitian, what a strange name. Although a native of Fujian, I had never heard of Peitian or its ancient communities.

Well Preserved Ancient Residences

Situated at the foot of Mt Guanzhi, an important state-level scenic area, Peitian Village is a part of Xuanhe Township in Liancheng County. A well-preserved residential complex in the village embodies Ming and Qing dynasties' architecture and comprises 30 groups of splendid buildings, 31 ancient household temples, six old-style schools, two memorial archways spanning a street and an ancient street over one kilometre long.



Seen from afar, all the architectural components appear integrated, with row upon row of houses harmoniously arranged. The outer walls are built with bluish fired bricks and the roofs are of black tiles. The roofs appear low and compact under the blue sky, the eaves are upturned and the ridge ends also point upward. Strolling among the buildings, we were full of wonder and doubts: were these really Hakka constructions? We had always regarded earthen buildings as representative of classic Hakka architecture, and thought them the only Hakka style. If we had not been told, we would hardly have believed these elegant buildings of *recherché* materials and exquisite

craftwork were part of Hakka culture, every bit as much as the bold, sober and vigorously styled earthen buildings.

Widely Differing Architecture

The first old residence we visited was the House of Dafu (大夫第, "Dafu" is a general term for officials in ancient China), which was initially built in 1829 and said to have taken 11 years to finish. Past

1. These old-style houses are seen everywhere in Peitian
2. The remains of a theatre stage. Long disused, it now occasionally provides a place for village children to play



the gate's stone threshold, we saw the spacious compounds, bright courtyards, delicate arched gateways, clay sculptures, stone carvings, coloured pottery and finely carved rafters, purlins, windows and screens. Their coloured decorations and paintings tell legendary stories. Peitian has several other manorial establishments designed for grand receptions. These enormous buildings, each covering nearly 7,000 square metres of land, are laid out symmetrically along an axis. Their layout integrates halls and courtyards, typifying North China's architecture, but takes into consideration southern rainfall and other climatic conditions. They are really worth a visit and architectural study.

Hakka's Fondness for Culture

The Hakka people in Peitian strictly followed the ancient teaching of "worshiping ancestors instead of deities". Unlike other old houses we had visited, where unpleasant musty smells pervaded grim halls and messy disarray distracted from the portraits and

signs of the ancestors, we hardly saw any shrines and censers in these residences. The farmers' houses in Peitian are tidy and clean. In all those we looked at, red couplets decorated the rafters, pillars and doorframes. Between doors and windows, including the gates of pinfolds, were other squares of red paper with a corner upward, on which were written celebratory words. These Hakka customs, passed down continuously over the generations, are the same as those followed by Hakka living in earthen buildings. Those red couplets and squares had been put up before the Chinese lunar new year. Three months had passed since then yet they were still as fresh as new. Steles were mounted upright in the halls. Together

these features revealed the Hakka's respect for culture.

A particular house in Peitian is named Rongxiju(容膝居). Though small it was important in the Ming Dynasty as a place where married village women learned reading, ethics, etiquette, needlecraft and

cuisine. It became known as the women's school for "learning before and improvement after marriage". That house is proof of the Hakka's respect for knowledge.

Dunputang, or the Hall of Honesty and Simplicity built in Jiaqing's reign (1796 — 1821) during the Qing Dynasty provides another illustration. Farming tools hang from the rafters, while paintings, calligraphy and scrolls are displayed everywhere on the



walls, some mounted and some not. We were told all these works were by the hand of a farmer named Wu Lie.

Naive Sensibilities

Peitian is small in size, but its houses cluster together, almost touching one another. Between them are connecting doorways. In Peitian, no precautions are deemed necessary against intrusion or aggression.

In Peitian, the villagers are simple, kind and honest in their dealings with others. They set up pitches at the corners of their old houses, selling ancestral antiques to tourists. But whether you buy or just look, their faces are always full of genuine good-naturedness.

One can take a camera and, walking into a Peitian kitchen or dining room, capture Hakka family life. It was midday. Although rising early that day, I forgot to join my fellow tourists for lunch at a farmer's house until I realized how hungry I was. Hurrying along, I unexpectedly noticed one of my companions lingering in a barber's on the old street, absorbed in taking pictures of two elderly men in their seventies or eighties. These old friends were drinking bowls of liquor and chatting happily. I just had to whip out my own camera. The elders invited us several times to have a bowl, but we declined with thanks. We moved on and when passing Shuangzhuo Hall (雙灼堂) came across some other tourists. About 10 photographers from Fujian and other provinces were snapping an ordinary farming family having lunch. The host and guests were toasting each other, and even the household cat and dog were feeding quietly nearby. All the photographers forgot their hunger, content with the amiable atmosphere. Leaving the lunch site, I tossed over in my mind the poem by Tang-dynasty poet Lu You (1125 — 1210): "Don't laugh at the farmers' poor liquor, for that is all they have to offer..."

We were able to have our delicious dinner in a farmer's — a big bowl of vermicelli mixed with shredded meat and mushroom cubes, charged five yuan only. Full up and at a break, I suggested taking a panorama picture of the ancient residences in Peitian from the point



of the front hill. When we asked the villagers for the way, immediately a stocky man in his middle age volunteered to escort me. All the way he kept to take care of me and carry the rack for me when climbing up steep slopes. Awkwardly I fell onto the ground once when climbing up, he showed great concern about if my camera had been broken.... Taking me back down the hill in safety, I suggested some payment to him, but resolutely, he shook his hands, turned over and strode away, disappearing in a lane.

Finally that evening, it was time to say good-bye to Peitian. Outside the village, wind was blowing in the trees, tall trees framed the memorial archways, above the archways clouds raced in the sky, under the sky lay green meadows, and on the meadows children ran after our car shouting loudly and cheerfully.

To this day my companion and I still remember that unforgettable scene.



Translated by Huang Deyuan

1. Going down these timeless lanes, you can feel like a countryman returning home
2. With no customers in a barber's at noon, these two old friends enjoy a chat
3. Wu Lie, a farmer calligrapher, demonstrates calligraphy at his home
4. Lunch in an ordinary village family attracts a group of photographers
5. Strolling through the narrow lanes, one's life slows down



Travel Tips

- **Routes:** Peitian comes under the jurisdiction of Liancheng County, Longyan City, Fujian Province. It is about 40 km north to scenic Mt Guanzhi, 45 km west to historically famous Changting County, and approximately 180 km south to the earthen building complexes at Hukeng Town, in Yongding County, Longyan City. There are many tourist attractions in this area, and they are near each other.
- By train: take the Shenzhen-Fuzhou line and get off at Longyan Station, and head for your destination from there.
- By car: take state highway No. 205 from Meizhou, Guangdong Province to Shanghang County, Longyan City, then to Peitian. Many scenic spots can be seen along the way. The earthen buildings are said to be listed as world cultural heritage sites. The Longkong Caves in Longyan City and the Gutian Conference relics in Shanghang are also worth seeing.
- **Fees:** The entrance to Peitian is 20 yuan per head. Tourists can book a farmhouse dinner.
- **Special Local Products:** Longyan is famous for its Eight Important Kinds of Dried Food from western Fujian. These include dried sweet potatoes, bean curd, turnips, meats, salted vegetables, hot peppers and pork. Longyan peanuts are also well known.

EXPERIENCES IN TRAVEL

Ever Delightful Burano

I finally got a chance to visit Burano, an island close to Venice in Italy. Compared to the Piazza di San Marco packed with tourists, the leisurely and tranquil island was exceptionally comfortable. Colourful three-storied apartments and the watercolour paintings found everywhere were a true delight.

In a square near the island's ferry port, there was a small cathedral and a stall selling embroidered tablecloths. I sat there eating ice-cream and watched as children played, tourists bargained with shopkeepers, and elderly residents entered and left the cathedral. Even the coffee shops, seafood stores and ornaments stalls on both sides of the street had an unsophisticated charm that was far more appealing than any commercial tourist centre.

My friend and I leisurely walked into a restaurant covered with many old pictures of Hollywood film stars. Based on our portions, we could only guess that the Italians must have large appetites. Even before our first course, we were given a dish of spaghetti. Our main course, baked rice with cheese, was completely different from that we were used to in Hong Kong, and it was delicious.

The colourful buildings along the criss-crossing small canals were the most impressive vision in Burano. Each home was painted in a different colour based on a family's surname. Curtains hung in the doorways and flowerpots dotted every window. Even the clothes that were hung up to dry created an eye-catching scene.

Every street offered a surprise. If I had paints and a brush, I might have drawn a watercolour of the scenes there. One image I will never forget — a light-purple apartment with a pot holding red flowers hanging in the doorway. Inside the apartment was a light-orange wall with emerald green window frames and yellow flower curtains. That scene made me reluctant to leave, and indeed I think my mind will stay there forever.

Ziying, H.K.



Entering Shangri-La

It was at a hostel inside Hutiaoxia (Tiger Leaping Gorge) in Yunnan Province that I debated Tibetan Buddhism, Socialism and Marxism all night over a bottle of wine with my driver.

I had arrived in Zhongdian, the Chinese name for the legendary "Shangri-La" made popular in western books, from Kunming just a few days ago. As we slept, the overnight bus to Zhongdian traversed the narrow mountain paths and Tibetan houses and fields along the way.

When we arrived, my travelling companions, who did not get enough sleep, walked too fast and suffered from altitude sickness. I was the lucky one; I was only dizzy for about three to four hours.

The next day, we hired a jeep to Dêqên. The driver, a Tibetan, was called "Runhua" (潤華) in Chinese, which means "moistening Chinese culture." In him, I saw the harmony between the Han and Tibetan cultures. After all, Yunnan is a multi-ethnic province. We met Tibetan families living in the Mingyong Glacier, and the locals sincerely asked us to lodge in their homes. After getting to know a woman who let me ride her horse, she told me her family stories. The people were very simple and honest. After three days in Dêqên, we headed to Baishuitai (White Water Terrace) and Tiger Leaping Gorge, where I found myself in that all night discussion. We talked about the struggles between races and religions in the world and how nice it was to see the peaceful existence of different nationalities in China.

After Tiger Leaping Gorge, I took a car to the ancient town of Lijiang. But I missed Zhongdian. I had brought a copy of the book, *The Lost Horizon* which popularized the legend of "Shangri-La." The book said that "Shangri-La" is a Tibetan word that means "the sun and moon in my heart." Despite what some say, I believe the book was not written based on western concepts. In fact, it was Westerners who were influenced by the book. After returning to Hong Kong, I couldn't help writing "Shangri-La" on the envelope to a letter I sent to the driver who provided a most enjoyable conversation.

Ma Hoi Ling, H.K.

BELOVED SOUVENIRS

Toy Camel – an Unexpected Reward

I spotted a lovely toy camel once on a trip to Dunhuang, or the Silk Road, and bought it immediately despite its huge size. When I returned to Hong Kong, I was reluctant to give it up, but it was a gift to my elder sister who was over-joyed at the present. While I miss the toy, it was so nice to see her cherish the souvenir.

A year later my schoolmate Liang returned from a trip to the Silk Road. I went to his dormitory one night to look at his travel pictures and he mysteriously took out a bag out from a paper box and presented me with a souvenir. I unwrapped the present, and there was the same toy camel! Suddenly, I felt love around me. Out of love, I gave the first toy to my sister, and my gift was unexpectedly rewarded.

Since then, I always buy things I love on trips, and give them to my relatives or friends. They may not have experienced my adventures, but I hope that whenever they see the souvenirs, they can imagine how happy I was when I was there and feel love everywhere.

Price of toy camel (six years ago): 30~40 yuan

Siu Ki, H.K.



NECESSITIES EN ROUTE

An Outdoor Chair, a Useful Travelling Item

Few people would consider a small chair a necessity on a trip. You won't be in trouble if you don't bring this chair (called the Insul Seat), but it definitely comes in handy. The seat can save a lot of energy if you use it while waiting for the sun to rise outside or even waiting for a bus.

There are many designs of this seat. My favourite is the one with a back shown above. Though it is heavy, I can entirely rely on it while waiting for the sun to rise instead of standing or sitting on grass with insects that can crawl on my legs. Sitting on the ground also makes my backbone hurt.

It is also a must when stargazing; it makes me feel as though I am sitting on a sofa. Stretch it out, and it forms a soft pad and can be placed on a wooden board or the ground, so you can sleep more carefree. For camping lovers, the seat can keep you warm in cold weather and prevent you from rheumatism pains due to the strong dampness on the ground.

Where to buy: All big stores selling sporting goods

Price: About HK\$ 100

Li Chai, H.K.

RECOMMENDED HOSTEL

The Lhasa Army Guesthouse

Besides the Banakshol Hotel located alongside Beijing Road East in Lhasa.

Another option is the No.2 Xizang Junqu Zhaodaisuo (Tibet Military Region No. 2 Hotel) located on 1 Southern Section, Duosenge Road. Previously open only to the army, the hotel is now open to the public. It is just a 10 minute walk to the Jokhang Monastery and 15 minutes from the Potala Palace. Covering a large area and designed like a garden, the newly refurbished restaurant in this tranquil hotel provides the best dishes I have ever tasted in Tibet. There are many kinds of guestrooms. Though the decor may be old, the rooms are all spacious.

Price: 40 yuan

Huang Zhansen, H.K.



CONTRIBUTIONS SOLICITED

We are grateful for the warm support of our readers who have sent us their contributions. Please remember that you are always welcome to write to us about your various travel experiences to share with other readers. You can write articles on any topic related to travelling. Stories for this column should be at most 500 words. A full-length story more than 1,500 words with good photos may be published in other columns, such as "Traveller's Corner" or "Travel Journal".

Please mail your story to: English Editorial Department, Hong Kong China Tourism Press, 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or send it via E-mail: edit-e@hkctp.com.hk.



- Recognised as one of the 10 most natural tourist destinations by a global cultural fund, Guizhou Province in West China will surely feast your eyes with dazzling customs and festivals. In next "Feature Story", we introduce to you the **glamorous festivity in southeastern Guizhou**: the mysterious Guzang Festival where different tribes of the Miao ethnic minority worship their ancestors according to their own traditions; the Miao New Year which Miao ladies showcase their beauty in colourful clothes and heavy silver ornaments; the Maoren Festival, a "Valentine's Day" for the Miaos, and many more unique events that make your tour an unforgettable one. Our experienced correspondents also invite you to penetrate the living place of the Dong ethnic group, as well as the Wuyang River which features the spectacular prospect of the Three Gorges, picturesque scenery of the Lijiang River, and characteristic karst landscape of Guizhou.
- Widely known as the setting point for the "Silk Road on the Sea", **Quanzhou in Fujian Province** had already been one of the four biggest business ports in China early in

the Tang Dynasty (618 — 907). Thanks to this, it boasts a long history of cultural, economic, and religious exchanges with countries or regions of the nearby Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Arabia. In next "Excursions", we invite you to join a heritage tour in Quanzhou: the Wuchong Ancient City three sides surrounded by water body; the practical Luoyang Bridge; the Islamic Lingshan Holy Tomb, and a monastery of Arabian taste, etc.

- In recent years, photographers and environmentalists have raised their concerned on the **Egret** (Ardeidae, a resident bird), which is regarded as an "observing bird of the environment" by the global green circle. It is because people have found the bird will always shift and stay in places that are unpolluted — most suitable for man to live. The Xiangshan Forest 36 km from Nanchang, capital city of Jiangxi Province, is recognised to boast the most and largest variety of egret in China. In next "Photography", while appreciating fantastic postures of the bird through the pictures and reading the photographing tips, may be it's time for us to put more emphasis in protecting the bird as well as our planet.

NOVEMBER



14~17/11

Considered to be of the largest scale in the travel and tourism industry of Asia-Pacific region, the **Fourth China International Travel Mart (CITM)** jointly hosted by the CNTA, the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and CAAC. A post conference tour for this year will be a three-day tour to Mt. Huangshan (Yellow Mountain) in Anhui Province.

Venue: Shanghai New Int'l Expo Centre (SNIEC)



31/10~8/11

During the **Guilin Scenery Festival** held in every autumn on Lijiang River in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, an evening tour of the Lijiang River will show beautifully shaped lanterns which combine sound, light, color and movement. In the bonfire party on Love Island, folk songs and dance performances and barbecues are also held. Tourists may experience Guilin's ancient culture and visit hot springs in nearby Longsheng.

1~30/10

Every year, the **Huyang** (diversiform-leaved poplar) **Ecology Tourist Festival** will be held in the Dalai Hubu Town in the Ejina Banna, Alxa League, Inner Mongolia. Sight-seeing tours to the poplar forest, photography tours, bonfire activities, wrestling, target-shooting, camel racing, nationality fashion shows, as well as singing contest among the herdsmen will be organised.

Inquiry no.: Inner Mongolia Autonomous Prefecture Tourism Bureau, (471) 6914 199

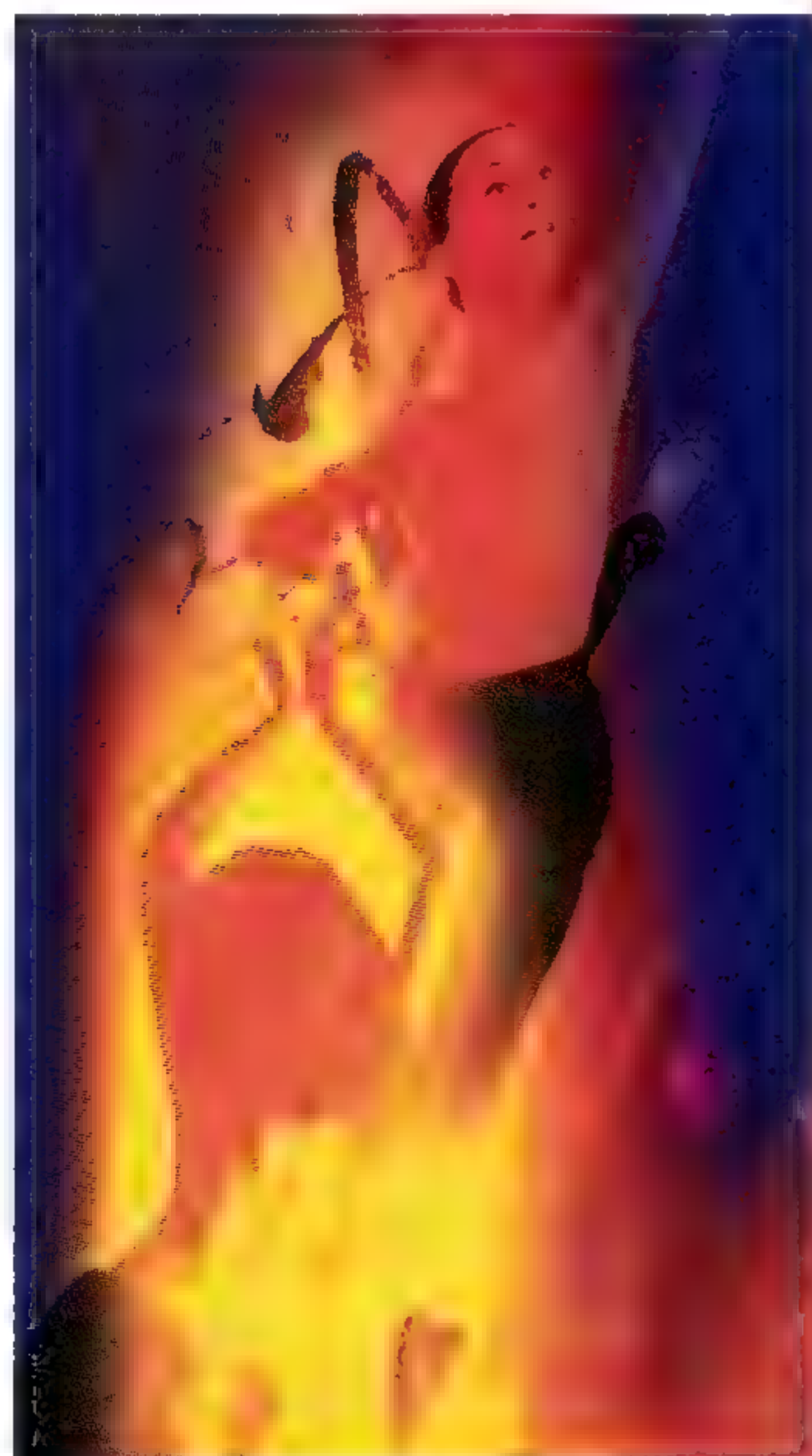


4~10/11

During the week-long **Fourth International Aviation Exposition** held in Zhuhai, Guangdong, visitors will have the chance to appreciate an aerobatics performance by five Russian fighter planes. Having invited over 40 related companies including such industry giants as Boeing and Airbus, the activity is co-held by the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, Guangdong Provincial Government, etc.

15~17/11

The **Qingdao International Design Festival, China (CIDF)** is the first comprehensive festival of its kind in China's design industry. Organised by Qingdao-based Lubang & Ciso International Exhibition Co., it will feature on conferences on project design, an auction conference of designer's work, design exhibitions and competitions. This is also a quick and direct entry for overseas designers to enter the Chinese market.



18/10~17/11

The first **Hong Kong New Vision Arts Festival** is set on the theme on the fusion of East-West cultures and Asian arts expressed in contemporary style. *Tasting Asia*, a mini-exhibition for instance, serves visitors with South Asian dishes complemented with poems for public appreciation. Performances from world famous artists including *Huqin* player Teresa Wong will be staged to ignite your new dimensions in Asian arts.

Inquire no.: (852) 2370 1044



20/9~31/10

At the **Fourth China Zhoushan International Sand Sculpture Festival** held in Zhujiajian, located in Zhoushan in East China's Zhejiang Province, visitors can appreciate sand sculptures which reproduce images of eight world wonders from ancient times, including China's terracotta warriors and horses and Egypt's pyramids. The Zhujiajian Sand Beach is recognised as a base for international sand sculpture activities by the International Sand Sculpture Organisation.



Hotels in Guangdong

City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
Heyuan	New World Hotel	****	8~1 M-section Changtang Rd, Heyuan	(762) 3399888	(762) 3399777
	Fulin Hotel	***	66 Heyuan Avenue S, Heyuan	(762) 3320288	(762) 3322881
	Rainbow Hotel	***	Intersection of Heyuan Avenue and Jianshe Avenue, Heyuan	(762) 3338333	(757) 3338039
	Dongye Hotel Heyuan	**	South Gate, Heyuan St, Heyuan		
Qingyuan	Guo Fu Yuan Hotel	****	Banhuan Rd N, New City, Qingyuan	(763) 3865130	(763) 3965001
	Qingyuan Hotel	**	Xianfeng Rd E, Qingyuan	(763) 3332183	
	Overseas Chinese Hotel	**	39 Xianfeng Rd, Qingyuan	(763) 3337118	
	Commercial Mansion	**	A55 Renmin Rd, Lian County, Qingyuan	(763) 6627780	(763) 6623405
	Aidehua Entertainment Co.	**	Fegang County, Qingyuan	(763) 4283193	
Shaoguan	President Resort	****	8 Shaoan Rd, Zhenjiang Dist., Shaoguan	(751) 8299928	(751) 8291208
	Xihe Liuhua Hotel	***	138 Xinhua Rd N, Xihe, Shaoguan	(751) 8636668	(751) 8770551
	Shaohua Hotel	***	162 Jiefang Rd, Shaoguan	(751) 8881870	(751) 8881998
	Greenlake Villa Shaoguan	***	Shahu Rd, Shaoguan	(751) 8760711	(751) 8884601
	Nanhua Hot Spring Hotel	**	Maba Town, Qujiang, Shaoguan	(751) 6665457	
Zhanjiang	Silver Sea Hotel Zhanjiang	****	52 People's Avenue C, Zhanjiang	(759) 3380688	(759) 3381033
	Haibin Hotel Zhanjiang	***	2 Haibin Rd, Xiashan Dist., Zhanjiang	(759) 2286888	(759) 2280747
	Universal Hotel	***	368 Shenchuan Boulevard N, Zhanjiang	(759) 3339788	(759) 3339931
	Zhanjiang Guest House	***	3 Yuejin Rd, Chikan, Zhanjiang	(759) 3315388	(759) 3310603
	Nanhai Hotel Zhanjiang	***	P.O. Box 17, Potou Dist., Zhanjiang	(759) 3950388	(759)3950555
Zhongshan	Internation Hotel Zhongshan	****	142 Zhongshan Rd 1, Shiqi, Zhongshan	(760) 8633388	(760) 8633368
	Fuhua Hotel	****	1 Fuhua St, Zhongshan	(760) 8638888	(760) 8611862
	Jinghua Hotel Zhongshan	***	3rd Zhongshan R, Shiqi, Zhongshan	(760) 8328688	(760) 8311313
	Cuiheng Hotel Zhongshan	***	Cuiheng Guest House, Zhongshan	(760) 5502668	(760) 5503333
Zhuhai	Yindo Hotel	*****	Yuehai Rd E, Gongbei, Zhuhai	(756) 8883388	(756) 8883311
	Grand Bay View Hotel Zhuhai	*****	Shuiwan Rd, Gongbei, Zhuhai	(756) 8877998	(756) 8878998
	Harbour View Hotel	*****	47 Middle Lover Avenue, Zhuhai	(756) 3322888	(756) 3371385
	Zhuhai Holiday Resort Hotel	****	Shihua Rd E, Jida, Zhuhai	(756) 3332038	(756) 3332036

Flights to and from **Guangzhou**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Amsterdam — Guangzhou	3 6	0200	1645	CZ 346
Guangzhou — Amsterdam	2 5	0900	2320	CZ 345
Bangkok — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1800	2040	CZ 363
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1155	1445	TG 668
Guangzhou — Bangkok	1 2 3 4 5 6	1400	1700	CZ 364
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1600	1900	TG 669
Beijing — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1450	1740	CA1301
	1 2 3 4 5 6	0900	1200	CA1321
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1735	2030	CA1339
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1130	1430	CA1315
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1340	1630	CA1327
Guangzhou — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6	1835	2125	CA1302
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1305	1555	CA1322
	1 2 3 4 5 6	0835	1125	CA1340
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1555	1850	CA1316
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1735	2030	CA1328
Changchun — Guangzhou	1 3 6	0820	1325	CJ6341
	4 7	0820	1325	CJ6347
	2 5	0820	1315	CJ6349
Guangzhou — Changchun	1 3 6	1415	1950	CJ6342
	4 7	1415	1930	CJ6348
	2 5	1415	1910	CJ6350
Chengdu — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1100	1245	CZ3403
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1620	1810	CZ3413
	1 2 3 4 5 6	2205	2355	CZ3483
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1225	1415	SZ4301
	1 3 4 7	1825	2015	SZ4381
Guangzhou — Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6	0815	1020	CZ3404
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1330	1530	CZ3414
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1930	2120	CZ3484
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1530	1725	SZ4302
	1 3 4 7	2135	2330	SZ4382
Chongqing — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1640	1820	CZ3415
	2 3 4 6 7	2120	2255	CZ3485
Guangzhou — Chongqing	1 2 3 4 5 6	1400	1550	CZ3416
	2 3 4 6 7	1900	2040	CZ3486
Haikou — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	0740	0840	CZ3203
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1200	1255	CZ3315
	1 2 3 4 5 6	0855	0950	CZ3317
	1 2 3 4 5 6	2100	2155	CZ3319
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1350	1505	CZ3507
Guangzhou — Haikou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1555	1650	CZ3204
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1345	1435	CZ3316
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1035	1125	CZ3318
	1 2 3 4 5 6	0700	0755	CZ3320
	1 2 3 4 5 6	2100	2155	CZ3508
Hohhot — Guangzhou	3 7	0830	1250	CA1383
Guangzhou — Hohhot	1 4	1845	2230	CA1382
Hong Kong — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1040	1120	CZ 301
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1340	1420	CZ 303

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1940	2015	CZ 305
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1640	1720	CZ 307
	1 2 3 4 5 6	2240	2320	CZ 319
Guangzhou — Hong Kong	1 2 3 4 5 6	0855	0955	CZ 302
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1155	1255	CZ 304
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1755	1855	CZ 306
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1455	1555	CZ 308
	1 2 3 4 5 6	2055	2155	CZ 320
Jakarta — Guangzhou	1 4 7	0800	1220	CZ 388
	5 6	1020	1445	GA 898
Guangzhou — Jakarta	3 6 7	1645	2100	CZ 387
	5 6	1545	2015	GA 899
Kuala Lumpur — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	0820	1205	CZ 366
	1 2 4 6 7	0930	1335	MH 54
Guangzhou — Kuala Lumpur	1 2 3 4 5 6	1840	2230	CZ 365
	1 2 4 6 7	1505	1905	MH 55
Los Angeles — Guangzhou	2 3 5 7	1540	0620	CZ 328
	2 3 5 7	1559	0620	CZ 328
Guangzhou — L.A.	1 3 5 7	2040	0940	CZ 327
Osaka — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1350	1730	CZ 389
Guangzhou — Osaka	1 2 3 4 5 6	0930	1250	CZ 390
Penang — Guangzhou	3 6	0820	1155	CZ 396
Guangzhou — Penang	2 5	1740	2120	CZ 395
Phnom-Penh — G.Z.	1 3 6	1520	1730	CZ 323
G.Z. — Phnom-Penh	1 3 6	1205	1420	CZ 324
Seoul — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1350	1715	CZ 337
	1 2 3 4 5 6	0815	1215	OZ 369
Guangzhou — Seoul	1 2 3 4 5 6	0940	1250	CZ 338
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1315	1635	OZ 370
Shanghai (Hongqiao) — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	1910	2115	CZ3503
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1205	1355	CZ3523
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1355	1600	CZ3537
	1 2 3 4 5 6	0830	1030	CZ3595
Guangzhou — Shanghai (Hongqiao)	2 3 4 5 6	1600	1800	CZ3504
	1 2 3 4 5 6	0900	1055	CZ3524
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1100	1245	CZ3538
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1830	2020	CZ3596
Singapore — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6	0810	1155	CZ 352
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1020	1415	SQ 804
Guangzhou — Singapore	1 2 3 4 5 6	1850	2245	CZ 351
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1515	1905	SQ 803
Sydney — Guangzhou	2 6	0920	1845	CA 173
	1 2 4	0750	1700	CZ 322
	7	0750	1700	CZ 326
Guangzhou — Sydney	1 5	1915	0730	CA 174
	1 3 7	1915	0630	CZ 321
	6	2130	0630	CZ 325
Yinchuan — Guangzhou	1 3 5 7	1245	1640	WH2369
Guangzhou — Yinchuan	1 3 5 7	1720	2130	WH2370

Airline codes:

CA = Air China
SZ = China Southwest Airlines
CJ = China Northern Airlines
WH = China Northwest Airlines

CZ = China Southern Airlines

** For reference only.*



Readership Survey

China Tourism always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Four Different Themes in Guangdong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tales of the Tibetan Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tracing Sichuan's Autumn Scenery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bidding Farewell to Three Gorges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Ancient Town of Huangyao	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tips for the Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Opinions: _____					

Name: (Mr/Ms/Mrs) _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____ Number of trips to China in the last 5 years: _____

Where (how) did you first see *China Tourism*?

- ☐ Subscription ☐ Newsstand or bookstore
☐ Hotel Name: _____ ☐ Others _____

Main purpose for reading *China Tourism*?

- ☐ Planning trips ☐ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc. ☐ Business
☐ Tourist Trade purposes ☐ Others _____

What do you like most about *China Tourism*?

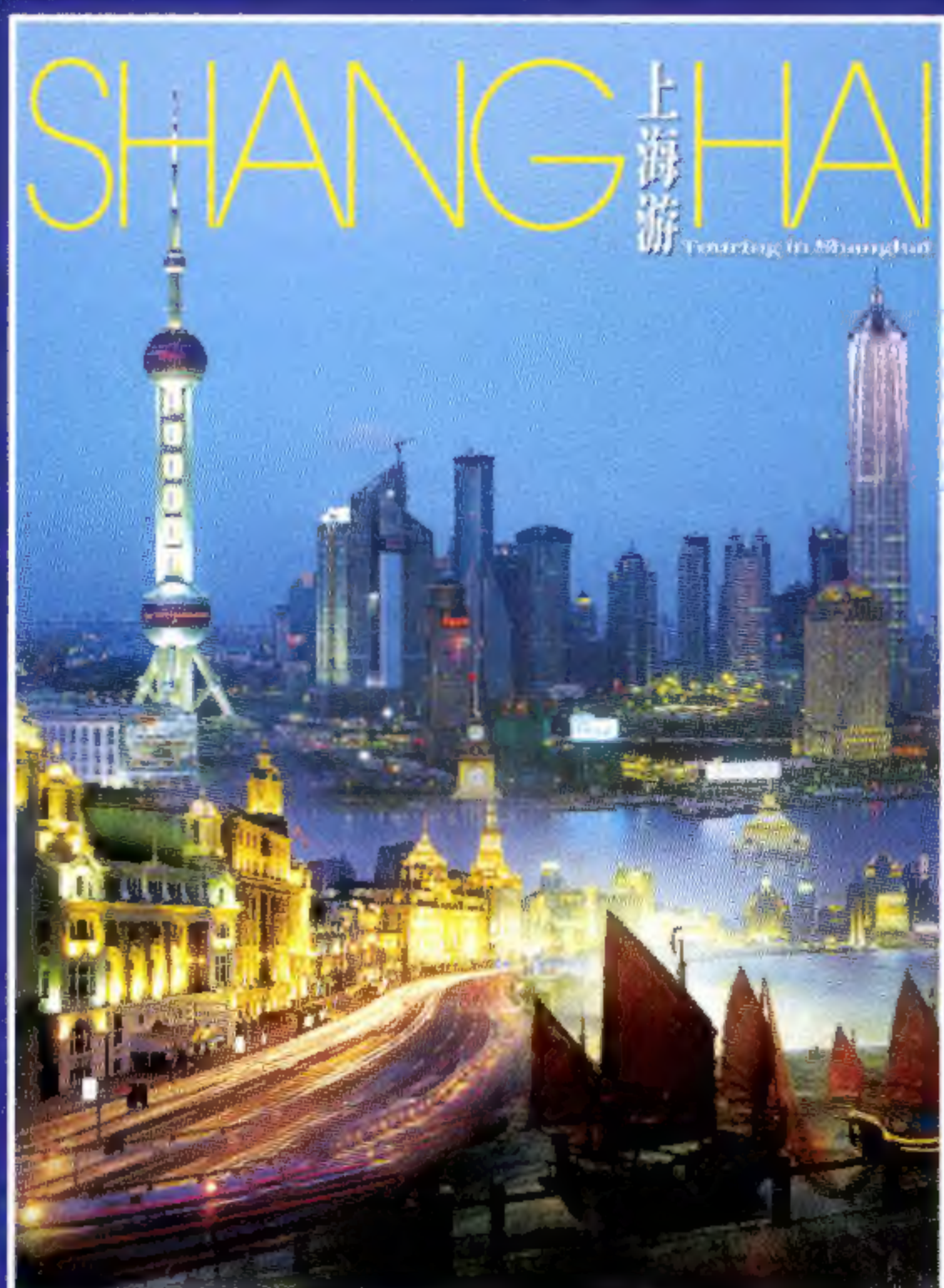
Are you happy with the factual content of *China Tourism*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What are your suggestions for improvement?

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.

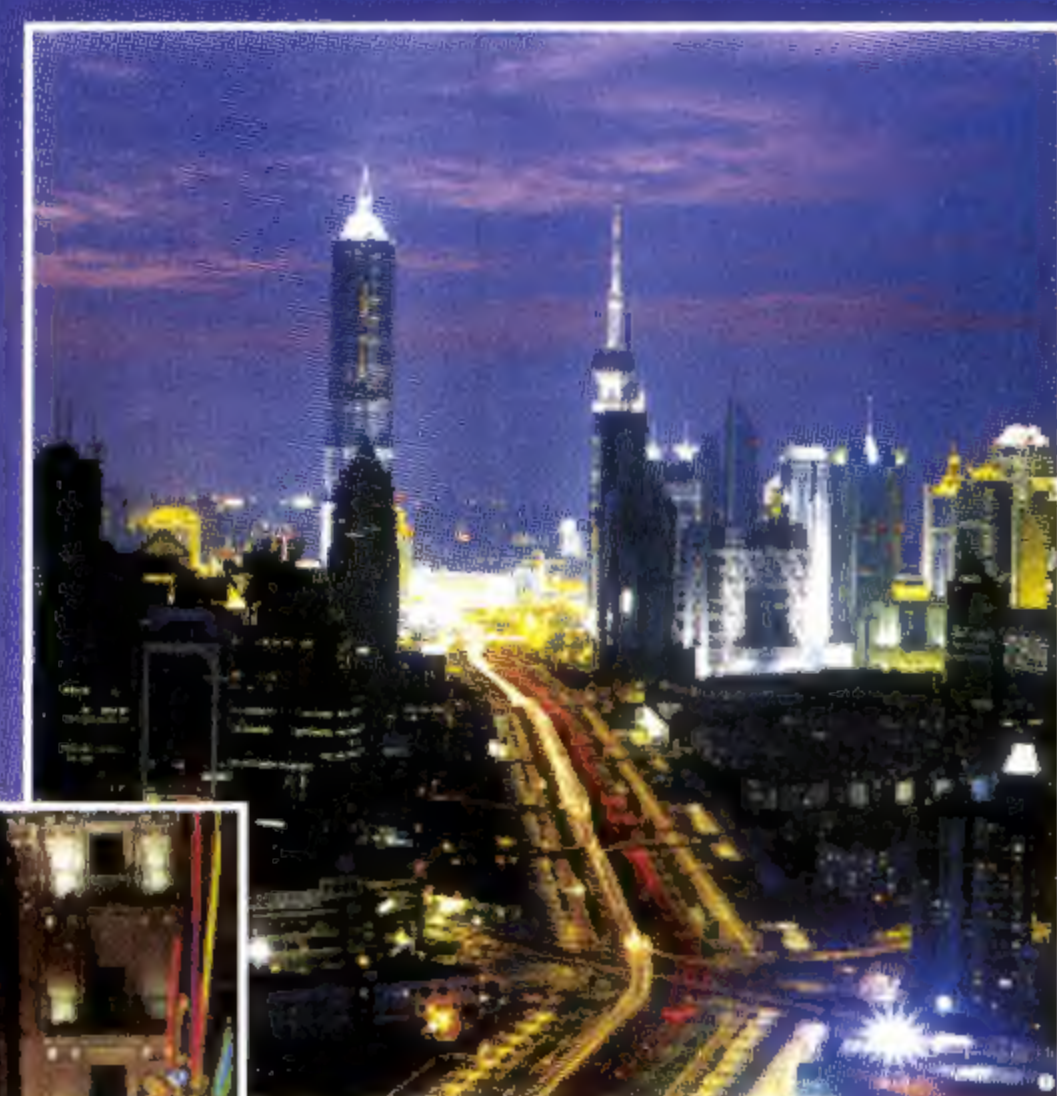
BEST SELLER



Shanghai

has evolved at an unprecedented speed for decades into the biggest commercial city in China and one of the great metropolises of the world. Favourably located at the mouth of the Yangtse River, Shanghai has a long history and a rich culture. Commercial tower blocks and traditional buildings exude their individual charms simultaneously in the Pudong District, where hundreds of buildings in different styles, old or new, are collectively known as the Exposition of World Architecture. A kaleidoscope of entertainments and festivals of Old Shanghai attracts scores of entrepreneurs and travellers alike. "Touring in Shanghai" takes you deeper into this vibrant city

through spectacular photography, along with outlines for more than 10 different kinds of tours including a shopping tour, popular tourist sights, cultural excursions, and more. Practical information summarises accommodations, transport and dining options, and tourist maps are also included. "Touring in Shanghai" is the latest, most comprehensive travel pictorial of Shanghai available in Hong Kong.



Now a **20%** off is offered to our readers

Original price HK\$120.00

Discounted price
HK\$96.00

Copies: _____

Postage (Surface mail per copy):

- ☐ Hong Kong HK \$15.00
- ☐ Macao, China, Taiwan HK \$22
- ☐ Asian countries (except Japan) HK \$36
- ☐ Non-Asian countries (including Japan) HK \$38

Name: _____ Subscription # _____ if applicable

Daytime tel.: _____ E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

Payment method:

☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to 'Hong Kong China Tourism Press'

☐ Credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Cardholder's name: _____

Card number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiry date: _____ Total amount (book + postage): _____

Please return your completed form either by fax to (852) 2561-8196 or mail to Subscription Department, 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

For more information, please call us on tel. # (852) 2561-8001, Subscription Department.



Hong Kong China Tourism Photo Library



The Hong Kong China Tourism Photo Library is the longest established and largest of its kind in China. Hundreds of thousands of the finest examples of photographic art from our own professionals and over 700 other photographers throughout the country reveal China in all its moods and glories. The library is a constantly updated resource offering the most comprehensive range available of high quality imagery of China.

E-mail: plchinat@netvigator.com

